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All change at Vogue?
Anna Wintour's new star

INSIDE TIMES2



Why pasta isn't as unhealthy as you think

China could become official threat after spy suspect scandal

Steve Swinford Political Editor
Billy Kenber
Senior Investigations Reporter

China faces being formally designated a threat to Britain under security laws after a Tory parliamentary researcher was arrested on suspicion of spying.

Chris Cash, 28, was the director of an influential group on Beijing co-founded by the security minister. He was also employed as a researcher by Alicia Kearns, chairwoman of the Commons foreign affairs committee.

His arrest in March on suspicion of breaching the Official Secrets Act, reported for the first time this weekend, has intensified debate on whether the UK needs to be more robust in its dealings with Beijing. Cash, who studied in China before working in Westminster, released a statement through lawyers yesterday insisting that he was "completely innocent". He said the allegations were "against everything I stand for", adding that he had spent his career "trying to educate others about the challenge and threats presented by the Chinese Communist Party". China called the claims malicious slander.

Cash and a man in his thirties who was arrested at the same time are on police bail until next month.

Under pressure on the government from China hawks, Oliver Dowden, the deputy prime minister, told the Commons there was a strong case for including China in the "enhanced" tier of the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme. Under the scheme, China would be designated as a "potential risk to UK safety or interests". Anyone working "at the direction" of China or state-linked Chinese companies would be required to register with the government and disclose their activities. Failure to do so would be a criminal offence carrying a five-year jail sentence.

Rishi Sunak said yesterday that he

Continued on page 6

1 in 3 female surgeons assaulted by a colleague

Eleven report being raped in landmark survey

TIMES Health Commission

Rachel Sylvester
Kat Lay Health Editor

Nearly a third of female NHS surgeons have been sexually assaulted by a colleague over the past five years, the largest survey of its kind has found.

Sexual misconduct is rife and appears to go unchecked in the profession, according to a research paper being published in the British Journal of Surgery today. Its authors warn that a misogynistic culture in hospitals poses a significant risk to patient safety.

Overall, two thirds of women working in surgery report having been sexually harassed by a colleague in or around the operating theatre. There were 11 instances of rape reported by surgeons who participated in the study.

The findings will raise further questions about the hierarchical structures and lack of accountability within parts of the NHS. The report says that sexual coercion is a major concern, with 11 per cent of female surgeons saying they have experienced "forced physical contact linked to career opportunities".

In an article for The Times, Tamzin Cuming, a consultant surgeon and chair of the Women in Surgery forum at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, says that this is a "MeToo moment" for surgery. She calls for a "seismic change in the culture of healthcare".

The survey was commissioned by the independent Working Party on Sexual Misconduct in Surgery and supported by the Royal College of Surgeons, Health Education England and the Association of Surgeons in Training. The results have been presented to NHS England, the General Medical Council (GMC), which regulates doctors, and the British Medical Association.

The study was the largest of its kind ever conducted into the surgical profession. Researchers from Exeter University analysed 1,436 responses to an anonymous online survey of surgeons. They concluded: "Sexual misconduct occurs frequently and appears to go unchecked in the surgical environment owing to a combination of a deeply hierarchical structure and a gender and power imbalance."

Almost 90 per cent of women and 81 per cent of men had witnessed some form of sexual misconduct at work over the past five years. More than 40 per cent of women had received uninvited comments about their body from a colleague, 29 per cent had experienced unwanted physical advances and 38 per cent had endured sexual banter at work. An overwhelming majority of female surgeons had little or no faith in their NHS trust, the GMC or the Royal Colleges to protect them.

The paper warns that patient safety is being compromised by the apparent

Continued on page 4

SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Pause for thought President Biden, 80, in Hanoi where his press secretary cut him off mid-sentence and jazz music interrupted a rambling speech in which he made an apparently mistaken reference to a John Wayne film. Page 32

Pay more for your pint when pub gets busy

Jessica Newman, Dominic Walsh

Drinkers are being charged 20p more for a pint during the busiest times after one of Britain's biggest pub chains implemented "dynamic" pricing.

Stonegate, which has more than 4,500 venues across the UK, said it "regularly reviews pricing to manage costs but to also ensure we offer great value for money". The higher prices help cover extra costs such as bouncers, more washing up and paying extra staff.

The pub giant talked up the benefits of dynamic pricing like happy hours, two-for-one cocktails, and discounts on food and drink at certain times. But it added: "This flexibility may mean that on occasions pricing may marginally increase in selective pubs and bars due to the increased cost demands on the business with additional staffing or licensing requirements such as additional door team members."

A manager of one Stonegate pub in central London, the Coach House, said that the change would add 20p to the cost of a pint of beer at weekends.

One rival pub boss said that the new strategy was poorly timed and "already provoking too many comments".

Last month the government said that pubs would be allowed to continue selling takeaway drinks to help revive the sector, which has been hit by the knock-on effects of the pandemic, rising energy bills and the cost of living crisis.

Jonathan Neame, the boss of Shepherd Neame brewer, said in March that price rises were inevitable as "there is still a significant amount of inflation".

Office for National Statistics figures last month showed that the average price of a pint of lager in a pub had risen by 47p in a year to £4.47, while a pint of ale cost £3.81 on average.

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News

Today's highlights

7.05am **Michelle Donelan**, right, the science, innovation and technology secretary
10.35am **Daniel Finkelstein** and **Miranda Green** pick over the headlines
11.05am **Matt Chorley** talks to reporters round the world where referendums are being held
2pm The chef **Tom Kerridge** and **Mariella Frostrup** discuss his book, *Pub Kitchen*
4.15pm **Victoria Atkins**, financial secretary to the Treasury, on back-to-work funding



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TODAY'S EDITION

Landowner lashes out

A Dartmoor landowner accused of trying to ban wild swimming on his 3,800-acre estate has said that "the masses" are ruining his part of the national park as the environment is unable to cope with "hordes of people". **Page 5**

Ballet schools 'shamed pupils'

Former dancers at two leading ballet schools — the Royal Ballet School in London and Elmhurst Ballet School in Birmingham — have complained of a culture of bullying and body-shaming that left some in hospital and others with severe eating disorders. **Page 9**

Happiness is … a hobby

Active hobbies in later life leave people happier and healthier, a study found. Some 78.1 per cent of over-65s in England said they had some form of hobby, ranking towards the lower end of the league table. Denmark was top with 96 per cent having a hobby. **Page 14**

167 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia
#FreeEvan



A sapper's tale of survival

A sapper with the 47th Mechanised Brigade, one of the vanguard units of the Ukrainian counteroffensive, tells Anthony Loyd about surviving a harrowing pounding on the front line where there are heavy losses from Russian mines and artillery. **Page 28**

Best wishes to Kim from King

The King has sent a message to Kim Jong-un congratulating North Korea on its national day and sending his "good wishes for the future". Charles was following the example set by the late Queen, who sent a number of such messages. **Page 32**

Train factory jobs at risk

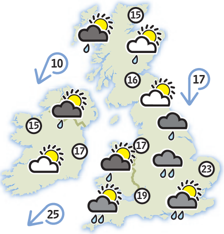
Thousands of high-value manufacturing jobs are at risk as Britain's largest train assembly plant — the Litchurch Lane works in Derby — is due to run out of work by the end of the year amid delays in the contract to build rolling stock for HS2. **Page 33**

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THE WEATHER



Wet in England and Wales, sunny spells with a few isolated showers elsewhere. **Full forecast, page 51**

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Hunt: Reducing inflation is bigger priority than tax cuts

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

There is "unlikely" to be any spare money for tax cuts in the autumn statement, Jeremy Hunt has said.

In a downbeat assessment that will have disappointed many Tory MPs, the chancellor predicted that taxes were more likely to rise than fall unless the government could find a way to improve growth.

He said "stickier" inflation had pushed up debt interest payments, meaning that there would be little money to play with when he made his autumn statement on November 22.

Bringing down inflation remained the priority, Hunt said, signalling further measures to get people into work, stem wage increases and expand the economy.

Conservative backbenchers have persistently pushed for tax cuts. Ministers have been keen to dampen such expectations while they struggle to meet fiscal rules at a time when inflation is falling more slowly than predicted.

Hunt told Bloomberg TV: "Our priority is to bring down inflation, and when you're trying to bring down inflation, you have to be really careful not to pump extra money into the economy, as much as you would like to, not to pump extra money into people's pockets, because that can push up prices and keep inflation higher for longer."

Asked whether there was more fiscal headroom than predicted earlier this year, Hunt said: "I think it's unlikely because since the spring budget, when the last numbers were published, we've seen inflation stickier than was forecast at the time and that means that interest payments are higher."

A Treasury source said: "There's a detachment here between the politics — 'we're trying to work out which taxes to cut' — and the economics, which is 'we're trying to avoid tax rises'."

Paul Johnson, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, has repeatedly said that the ageing population and the government's desire to increase defence spending after years of cuts would make tax rises likely in coming years.

Asked whether Johnson was right, Hunt said: "He is right. If we don't change course we are going to see taxes going up." But he added: "You're going to be hearing a lot from me in the weeks and months ahead about how we increase our growth levels. How do you increase growth? A few things. First of all, you make it easier for businesses to recruit the workers they need so they don't have to put up salaries and put up their prices. Secondly, you have to get inflation under control. And thirdly, you have to boost business investment."

Speaking on a visit to Delhi, which hosted the G20 meeting over the weekend, Hunt said there was "real political momentum" behind a UK-India trade deal. "Both prime ministers would like to see if there's a way to do a deal."

The Office for Budget Responsibility said in March that Hunt's spending plans were within his fiscal rules by only £6.5 billion, the smallest cushion on record. He said that his predictions for the autumn were "speculation" pending the OBR's final figures. He said: "The one thing I can absolutely say is that our focus of the autumn statement will be on bringing down inflation."

Johnson cited the NHS workforce plan championed by Hunt, which will cost about £50 billion by the 2030s, warning: "Given our present fiscal position, it is hard to see how anyone can simultaneously believe that we should do this and that we should cut taxes."

Unions warn of shortfall in trainee secondary teachers

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Only half the intended number of secondary teachers are likely to be recruited this year, new figures suggest.

Analysis of data from last month shows 52 per cent of the desired number of secondary trainees will start courses this autumn, according to two teaching unions.

About 13,800 candidates have been recruited or have deferred places but the government's target is for 26,360 trainees, an increase of 26 per on last year. This reflects the growing secondary age pupil population as a baby boom moves through from primary school to secondary.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) and the National Education Union claim this will compound the recruitment and retention crisis in schools.

They say Department for Education (DfE) claims about record numbers of teachers fail to mention the number of pupils in state-funded schools in England has risen by almost double the rate of the teaching workforce.

Paul Whiteman, general secretary at the NAHT, said: "More children are being taught by teachers with no qualification in the subject they are teaching, by teaching assistants, or by often costly supply staff.

"For school leaders and teachers it's a vicious cycle, because staffing vacancies add to unsustainable workload and can harm their wellbeing, prompting more to consider their future in what should be a richly rewarding profession."

A series of strikes this year over pay resulted in a settlement but unions have not ruled out further action. They say teachers and leaders' salaries have lost about a fifth of their value against inflation since 2010.

Once teachers are trained, retention is an issue, unions claim, with nearly 40,000 teachers — about 9 per cent of the workforce — leaving the profession last year for reasons other than retirement.

The Department for Education said: "There are record numbers of teachers in our schools, up by 27,000 since 2010."

Labour plans to safeguard worker rights

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Labour will go into the next election with a package of measures to strengthen workers' rights, the Labour deputy leader will say today as she pledges to end the Conservatives' "cycle of insecure work and poor pay".

In an address to the TUC conference in Liverpool Angela Rayner will pledge to roll back anti-union legislation if Labour wins the next election.

Among the policies expected to be in Labour's manifesto are a return to collective bargaining in underpaid professions such as social care, and the abolition of rules that allow companies to delay giving full rights such as unfair dismissal, sick pay and parental leave to new workers for up to two years.

The party will also pledge to repeal legislation including the requirement for 50 per cent of union members to vote in a ballot for strike action.

Rayner told a TUC fringe meeting yesterday that she would "not let down" unions if Labour take power.

Saddam Hussein hostages to sue Britain

David Brown

Hostages used as a human shield by Saddam Hussein are preparing to sue the UK government over claims airline passengers were sacrificed to mount a secret military operation.

Jennifer Chappell was 12 when she was among 386 passengers and crew taken hostage after BA Flight 149 landed in Kuwait after an invasion by the Iraqi military.

The hostages were subject to beatings, rape, mock executions and starvation during up to five months of captivity. Lawyers claim Chappell and other hostages may seek an average of £170,000 each in damages.

Chappell said: "I was 12 when we were landed in Kuwait. It was the beginning of a waking nightmare that has yet to end to this day."

Previously secret files released by the National Archive in 2021 show that Sir Michael Weston, the British ambassador to Kuwait, called the Foreign Office in August 1990 to warn that Iraqi forces had crossed the border before the flight landed.

Flight 149 took off from Heathrow for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with a scheduled refuelling stop in Kuwait.

The files show officials discussed suppressing the existence of the ambassador's phone call amid concerns that the government would be left vulnerable to compensation claims.

Lawyers bringing action against the government and British Airways claim the warning was not passed on because the flight was being used to insert a black ops team of former special forces and security services into Kuwait.

Chappell, from Cannock, Staffordshire, was seized, with her brother, John, 14, and their parents, Maureen and John. They were held hostage on the orders of Hussein, the president of Iraq.

Liz Truss, then foreign secretary, apologised in 2021 for the failure to disclose the ambassador's warning but insisted there was no evidence that the flight was carrying British forces.

An earlier claim was thrown out on a technicality by the House of Lords.

A BA spokesman said it was not warned about the invasion.

You'll never succeed, father told Musk

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent











Elon Musk: the Ultimate Inside Story details relationships with his second wife, Talulah Riley, above, the actress Amber Heard, right, his father Errol and his daughter Jenna, top right

When Elon Musk set off from South Africa as a teenager to make his mark on the world, his father told him: "You'll be back in a few months. You will never be successful."

A new biography of Musk by Walter Isaacson, *Elon Musk: the Ultimate Inside Story,* has detailed the impact of this toxic relationship between father and son on the Tesla chief. Errol Musk, 77, who had an emerald business in Pretoria, denigrated Elon and was abusive to his mother, Maye, the book claims.

In the book, Musk characterises his decision to live with his father after his parents split as a "really bad idea" and his former wives tell Isaacson about Errol's continued psychological effect on the billionaire.

His first wife, Justine Wilson, says: "If your father is always calling you a moron and an idiot, maybe the only response is to turn off anything inside that would have opened up an emotional dimension that he didn't have the tools to deal with."

The Canadian singer Grimes, with whom Musk has three children, said: "I think he got conditioned in childhood that life is pain." Musk tells his biographer: "Adversity shaped me. My pain threshold became very high."

Talulah Riley, Musk's second wife, says he used to cry when talking about his father to her at night. Musk cut off contact with him when Errol started a relationship with his own step-daughter, with whom he now has two children.

However, Isaacson, who spent two years shadowing Musk and talking to his inner circle, says the spectre of the father still looms large.

Musk's laugh is "similar to the laugh that his father has. Some of the words Elon uses, the way he stares, his sudden transitions, from light to dark to light, remind his family members of the Errol simmering inside of him."

The book also sheds new light on Musk's complicated romantic life, revealing a previously unknown tenth living child called Techno Mechanicus Musk, whom he had with Grimes. She tells Isaacson: "He came out with eyes that could just see so deeply into your soul, with so much knowledge. He looks like a little Spock. He's definitely a Vulcan." The boy is nicknamed Tau after the Greek letter representing the number equal to two times pi. Its approximation, 6.28, is also Musk's birthday, June 28.

Isaacson also interviewed Shivon Zilis, an executive at Neuralink, one of Musk's companies, with whom Musk has had twins via IVF. The relationship and birth were kept a secret and when Grimes found out, Isaacson says, she was "outraged" as Zilis was her friend.

That anger continues to boil as in recent days, when Isaacson tweeted the first picture of Zilis's twins, Strider Sekhar Sirius and Azure Astra Alice. Grimes claimed in response to the photograph that she was being blocked from seeing her own son with Musk and the situation was "ripping my family apart". She has since said the issue has been sorted out but "communication about the twins wasn't handled super well in the past". Zilis is unique among Musk's partners as she claims never to have argued with him.

Musk's choice of women is often frowned upon by his family. His brother Kimbal tried to stop his first marriage, to Wilson: "I was like, 'Don't, you must not, this is the wrong person for you'." When Maye Musk thought that the wedding to Wilson was off, she told her son: "Now you won't be miserable."

The book details how deeply Musk was shaken by the break-up of his tempestuous relationship with Amber Heard, the actress, whom his family despised. "His brother and friends hated her with a passion that made their distaste for Justine pale," Isaacson writes.

Kimbal says of Heard: "She was just so toxic. A nightmare. The way she can create her own reality reminds me of my dad. It's really sad that he falls in love with these people who are really mean to him. They're beautiful, no question, but they have a dark side and Elon knows they are toxic."

The biography suggests that one of the causes of Musk's campaigns against wokeness was his estrangement from his transgender daughter. Jenna transitioned from Xavier when she was 16, and tried to keep it secret from Musk. She is also anti-capitalist and once texted her father: "I hate you and everything you stand for."

This was a key factor in Musk selling all his houses at one point and deciding to live less lavishly.

"I've made many overtures, but she doesn't want to spend time with me," Musk tells Isaacson.

Jared Birchall, the manager of Musk's personal office, says: "He feels he lost a son who changed first and last names and won't speak to him because of this woke mind virus. He is a first-hand witness on a very personal level of the damaging effect of being indoctrinated by this woke mind religion."

Grimes tells Isaacson: "I've never seen him as heartbroken. I know he'd do anything to be able to see her or have her, like, accept him again."

Ukraine's need for Starlink gives Musk too much power, Hugo Rifkind, page 25

What else have we learnt?

- Musk's German shepherd bit him when he was six. He resisted being treated until he was promised the dog would not be harmed, but "they damn well shot it dead" anyway.
- He was nearly named "Nice Musk" because he was conceived in Nice.
- He nearly died of malaria in 2001 and his company, X.com, would have paid out $100 million in insurance.
- He persuaded his sister, Tosca, to have a child through a sperm donor.
- He was spending $170,000 a month on divorce lawyers during his break-up with his first wife, Justine.
- When SpaceX got its first Nasa contract, he changed his password to ilovenasa.
- The first three words spoken by his son, X, were "rocket", "car" and "Daddy".



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News

‘I didn’t make a fuss… we were about to operate’

MARK HARRISON FOR THE TIMES





Roshana Mehdian-Staffell, Liz O’Riordan, above, and Philippa Jackson, below, said some male colleagues would sexually assault them, usually as they were going into the operating theatre



Rachel Sylvester

Philippa Jackson, a consultant plastic surgeon from Bristol, was discussing a patient with a male colleague when he moved in to give her a hug. “He made some noises and rubbed himself against me,” she recalled. “And then, as he backed away, he said ‘You probably felt my erection then’, and he also told me he could see down my top.”

The encounter seemed so at odds with the sterile, clinical setting of the hospital that she wondered whether she had misunderstood the situation.

“I didn’t make a fuss because we were about to go into theatre and I don’t think I had properly registered what had happened,” she told The Times Health Commission in April.

“I thought, ‘That’s creepy’, but it didn’t mean I couldn’t do my job. So I did what I had to do.”

Later that evening she was back with the same colleague for an emergency operation. This time his behaviour was even more overt. After offering to tie up her gown — which is standard procedure among surgeons — “he said, ‘Now you’ve given me permission to tie you up under any circumstances’, and he kissed me on my neck from behind.”

Again they were about to go into surgery so she put it to the back of her mind. “You feel trapped in the circumstances. I don’t think any of us really wants to believe that we’re vulnerable,” she said.

Eventually, Jackson wrote to the hospital detailing the incident but she was discouraged from making a formal complaint. “They did an investigation, which was quite superficial. The questions to me were very much focused on ‘Did you say no? Did you push him away? Did anyone see it?’ You’re made to feel it’s your fault.”

The man was not suspended and shortly afterwards Jackson left for another job. “You survive, then move on to the next place and just hope it doesn’t happen again,” she said.

Sexual misconduct is “rife” in surgery, a new research paper published in the British Journal of Surgery has concluded. The shocking results of the survey show that such behaviour is likely to reoccur. Almost a third of female surgeons have suffered a sexual assault and two thirds have endured sexual harassment.

Sexual banter and coercion have become normalised in and around the operating theatres. Female surgeons are “living different realities” from male ones with potentially dire consequences for patient safety.

Roshana Mehdian-Staffell, a trainee trauma and orthopaedic surgeon, described a “boys’ club mentality”. One male doctor suggested to her that full-time surgery was “not an appropriate career choice” for mothers.

“I’ve been sexually harassed lots of times,” she said. “I’ve had people come into the sluice room [where waste is disposed of] and stand behind me and grind themselves on me. There was one time when someone walked in and said ‘You’ve got your short trousers on — make sure you always wear them because your ankles are really sexy’.”

Surgery is still one of the most male-dominated parts of medicine. Although women make up more than half of the places at medical school, only 28 per cent of surgeons are female. The numbers are even smaller at the top of the profession and only 15 per cent of consultants are women.

There are high drop-out rates among female trainees. Surgical trainees rotate around different hospitals every year, making it hard to combine with family life. Flexible working is frowned upon and sometimes impossible. Female surgeons have higher than average miscarriage and infertility rates.

Even the surgical instruments are designed for male hands. Joanna Maggs, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon in Devon, described how she had to balance on a stool during some parts of an operation. “The operating table height doesn’t go down quite low enough for me,” she said. “When you’re using big power tools, it can feel quite precarious.”

Liz O’Riordan, who retired as a consultant oncoplastic breast surgeon in 2019, says that she experienced sexual harassment in two thirds of her surgical jobs in a career spanning more than 20 years.

“It was usually in theatre, when you’re operating next to your boss, your superiors, and your peers,” she said. “You’re wearing thin cotton scrubs and you have full body contact. It was knuckle brushes on your breasts, touching your bum, comments about your sex life, lewd suggestions to make you blush. And when it happens, no one else in the theatre responds.”

She did not feel comfortable speaking about her experiences until she had stopped working as a surgeon.

“There was one occasion when I did say something, and I had a very uncomfortable meeting with a boss and someone from HR. I had to work with that man for the next few months and I backtracked. There is a fear of speaking out when your job depends on the training and references from the person harassing you.”

Jackson said that she had “no faith in the system” to protect her from men like the colleague who assaulted her.

“It’s absolutely devastating because people put their lives in our hands,” she said. “They trust us at their most vulnerable moments and there are people out there taking advantage. I’ve been a patient and it frightens me now to think what’s happening when I’m unconscious because not everybody is there with good intentions.”

Behind the story

The surgical profession is starting to have a difficult, open conversation about a problem that female surgeons have long shared in whispers between themselves (Kat Lay writes).

A review by the human rights lawyer Helena Kennedy, KC of diversity and inclusion in surgery, commissioned by the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 2021, concluded that racism, sexism and homophobia were widespread in hospital operating theatres, including “jokes” being made about rape and sexual assault.

Then a few brave women put their heads above the parapet last year to share the sexual harassment and abuse they had experienced in NHS surgery. They also set out how, when they tried to report culprits, little was done and no support was offered.

Anger about the revelations provoked what has become a MeToo movement in surgery. Regulators have taken notice, and the General Medical Council has added a clause to its professional guidance this year noting that doctors must not “act in a sexual way towards colleagues with the effect or purpose of causing offence, embarrassment, humiliation or distress”.

Although surgery has been a male-dominated specialty, few think other parts of the health service are immune.

This month the NHS brought in a “sexual safety charter” for hospitals and GP surgeries, requiring them to take a “zero-tolerance approach” to tackling sexual misconduct, including “appropriate and timely action against alleged perpetrators”.

Today’s survey results show how much work needs to be done.

Third of female surgeons report sexual assault by a colleague

Continued from page 1

normalisation of sexual behaviour in and around operating theatres. Perpetrators who target colleagues “are more likely to transgress sexual boundaries with patients,” it says. “The result is an unsafe working environment and an unsafe space for patients.”

This year The Times Health Commission heard reports of sexual assault and harassment under the “boys’ club mentality” in surgery. That evidence is substantiated by the survey, which found that women lived ”different realities” in the male-dominated profession, more likely to witness and experience sexual assault. Only 28 per cent of surgeons are women.

Dame Jane Dacre, former president of the Royal College of Physicians and a member of the Times commission, said pervasive sexual misconduct was part of “an old-fashioned culture” that made women unwelcome. “It undermines professional relationships and results in a fearful and distracted female workforce,” she said. “The patient should be at the centre of clinical activity, otherwise errors are more likely.”

Professor Carrie Newlands, a consultant surgeon and one of the report’s authors, said there was an urgent need to reform how sexual misconduct was reported and investigated. “It is vital that regulators, colleges, employers and training authorities come together to take a zero-tolerance approach,” she said. “The system simply isn’t working.”

Tim Mitchell, president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, insisted that there was “no place” for sexual harassment or assault in operating theatres or the wider NHS, describing the findings as “truly shocking”. He said that NHS trusts and regulatory bodies needed to “take a long hard look” at whether their sexual misconduct policies and procedures were fit for purpose.

Charlie Massey, chief executive of the GMC, said updated professional standards for doctors set out “zero tolerance” for sexual misconduct and that the GMC would tend to take the view that serious sexual misconduct was “incompatible with registration”.

The Department for Health and Social Care said: “The health and social care secretary is clear that sexual violence or misconduct of any kind is unacceptable and has no place in the NHS. He is working closely with NHS leaders to root out this unacceptable behaviour and ensure services are always safe for staff and patients. In partnership with the royal colleges, staff, regulators and trade unions, the NHS recently launched the healthcare system’s first organisational sexual safety charter. Signatories commit to taking and enforcing a zero-tolerance approach to any unwanted, inappropriate and/or harmful sexual behaviours within the workplace.”

This is a MeToo moment for those working in surgery, Thunderer, page 24

Masses are ruining Dartmoor, says landowner who thwarts swimmers

Will Humphries
Countryside Correspondent



WAYNE PERRY FOR THE TIMES

Patrick Simpson is trying to stop people swimming in the Dart at Spitchwick Commons. He has put up warning signs, below

A Dartmoor landowner accused of trying to ban wild swimming on his 3,800-acre estate has said that "the masses" are ruining his part of the national park as the environment is unable to cope with "hordes of people".

Patrick Simpson, 82, the sixth largest landowner on Dartmoor, has closed several car parks near popular swimming spots on the River Dart in recent years. Last month he placed "code of conduct" signs telling visitors: "No wild swimming please as it disturbs aquatic wildlife and the delicate riverbanks."

Right-to-roam campaigners have criticised the move to discourage swimming in the Dart and locals who have swum there for generations have said that there would be "a rebellion".

Simpson, a retired land agent whose grandfather bought Spitchwick Manor and several surrounding estates in the 1930s, defended the signs as "polite and offering guidance" but told The Times that they were designed to "make you feel guilty if you don't do what it says".

He said that the closure of several car parks on the Spitchwick Commons had made the popular Deeper Marsh swimming spot "so much calmer and quieter". Simpson has left three disabled parking bays open.

On hot and sunny days the grassy lawns of Deeper Marsh, on a slow bend of the Dart, can be littered with barbecues, rubbish and broken bottles near the eroded riverbanks.

"There is only one way to give a lot of control over who comes to Dartmoor, as 99 per cent of people arrive by motor vehicle," Simpson said. "So have private car parks where you want [people] and close them up where you don't want them. It works. I have closed car parks and it's lovely and peaceful and quiet.

The overuse of a particular wild swimming spot can harm wildlife. Swimmers entering and leaving the water can damage riverbanks and tree roots as well as destroying nesting sites for threatened species such as water voles. Fish spawning sites can also be disrupted.

The row comes during a continuing legal dispute about wild camping. Alexander Darwall, a fund manager and the fifth largest landowner on Dartmoor, wants to end the right to wild-camp on the national park and is seeking to overturn a Court of Appeal judgment that allowed backpack camping without landowners' permission.



The Simpson family, which runs the River Dart Country Park in Devon, says that it has suffered an increase in litter and damage to the environment caused by rising visitor numbers to the national park.

"They don't just wild swim, they go berserk and hide the bottles in the cracks of rocks and leave [them]," Simpson said. "I have seen it happen. Dartmoor is not built for hordes of people."

Simpson acknowledged that respectful visitors would lose out. "You can't have one law for [respectful swimmers] and another for the louts who do drink and drugs," he said.

"It affects everyone, which is a huge shame, but the mess has got out of hand. It's been ruined by the masses."

Locals and tourists have been defying the appeals during the recent heatwave. Jeff Sedgwick, 75, a tenant of Simpson who lives in one of the estate's gatehouses, said: "There is going to be a rebellion. This has been a popular swimming spot for hundreds of years. There are going to be hordes of people coming here to deliberately swim now."



Verity Jepson, 39, from Slapton, on the south Devon coast, grew up swimming at Deeper Marsh and brings her two boys, aged 10 and 13. She said the problem with litter and damage to the riverbanks "has been building over the years" and it was an "awful problem".

"Most locals are respectful and take their rubbish home," she said. "I don't think the people swimming are a problem, it's the people drinking lager and playing football and burning the grass."

Right-to-roam campaigners have criticised the signs and car park closures. Lewis Winks, from the Right to Roam campaign, said his group would defy the ban. "It's not swimmers who are pouring sewage into Dartmoor's rivers, nor campers who have left Dartmoor's SSSI's [sites of special scientific interest] overgrazed and mismanaged. On the contrary, members of the public have been at the forefront of raising the alarm on river pollution in England."

Kate Rew, from the Outdoor Swimming Society, said: "Banning swimming is unnecessary, counterproductive and impossible to enforce.

"While the situation at Dartmoor is extremely concerning, it demonstrates the need for a legal right to access to reservoirs and all other water bodies in England and Wales for swimming."

Right to Roam is campaigning for a new Right to Roam Act, which would give a presumption in favour of access to England's land and water to bring England in line with Scotland.

Gas on distant planet 'a breakthrough in hunt for life'

Kaya Burgess Science Reporter

Astronomers have hailed a "fundamental breakthrough" in the search for alien life after detecting signs on a distant planet of a gas that, on Earth, is produced only by living organisms.

Scientists at Nasa and the University of Cambridge have stressed that more observations will be needed with the James Webb Space Telescope to confirm the presence of the compound, dimethyl sulphide (DMS), but the lead author of the research said that "even the prospect of it is mind-boggling" as the gas was "uniquely associated with life" when found on Earth.

K2-18b is a planet 8.6 times as massive as Earth and 120 light years away. Data from the James Webb Telescope suggests that it is totally covered in water and within the habitable zone of its star in the Leo constellation.

The discovery of dimethyl sulphide in its atmosphere, if confirmed, will propel K2-18b to the top of the list, with Mars and the icy moons of Jupiter and Saturn, of the best places to search for life beyond Earth, an astronomer from the University of Cambridge has said, because it is a gas "uniquely associated with life".

Astronomers from Nasa and Cambridge have described their excitement after data from the telescope showed large amounts of carbon dioxide and, for the first time, significant quantities of methane in the atmosphere of an "exoplanet", a world in orbit around another star.

Both of these carbon-carrying gases are considered clues that a planet may be habitable or even inhabited, although both can also be produced by inorganic processes so do not in themselves constitute proof of alien life.

Buried within the data, however, was a weaker signal that left astronomers feeling "a mix of shock and excitement and disbelief", they said. It appeared to show the presence in K2-18b's atmosphere of DMS, a complex molecule made up of carbon, hydrogen and sulphur atoms. The research will appear in The Astrophysical Journal Letters. Nasa said: "On Earth, this is only produced by life. The bulk of the DMS in Earth's atmosphere is emitted from phytoplankton in marine environments."

Nikku Madhusudhan, a professor of astrophysics and exoplanetary science at Cambridge, said that on Earth the compound had no known inorganic source. Though Madhusudhan stressed that the telescope would need to make more observations of the planet next year to confirm the presence of DMS, which it does by analysing light, he added: "I think this is a fundamental breakthrough as a stepping stone on our search for life elsewhere."

Flintoff 'hid face until six weeks ago'

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Freddie Flintoff was covering his face until six weeks ago as a result of his *Top Gear* crash in December last year, according to Steve Harmison, his former England team-mate.

On Friday, Flintoff, 45, made his first public appearance since the accident when he took part in fielding drills with the team before their one-day match against New Zealand in Cardiff.

Harmison told TalkSport that it had been great to see his friend return. "It's been tough, you've seen the pictures of him with a smile on his face but I saw him about six weeks ago when my son, Charlie, and his son, Rocky, played against each other," he said. "I got to see him then and it was great, but at the time he covered his face up when he was walking around.



Freddie Flintoff has made his first public appearance since the crash in December

"To see him around the England group was fantastic. Freddie was always brilliant in the dressing room and to have him in the dressing room and getting his feet under the table [means] they are in for a show."

Flintoff's career as a television presenter remains in doubt. He quit *Top Gear* after the high-speed accident at the test track on Dunsfold Park, Surrey. The show is on hold pending a health and safety review.

BBC edits presenter's rant on cuts

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

The BBC has cut an on-air attack from its catch-up service after a presenter used her final show to condemn its local radio cuts as "ableist and ageist".

Sophie Little's tirade during the last edition of *Treasure Quest*, a clue-hunting programme on BBC Radio Norfolk, has been removed from BBC Sounds.

Little, who had been on the show for ten years, told The Times she had been surprised by the decision, and called on the BBC to give an explanation. She opened the show on Sunday by saying she believed it was her duty to use her platform "to speak up for others".

Treasure Quest, which has been broadcast for 15 years, is among the casualties of the BBC's decision to reduce the number of local radio shows in favour of investment in its website.

Little said the "unbelievably unfair" cuts hit those who relied most on public service broadcasting hardest. "Those who are lonely and isolated, unable to leave their house, unable to use the internet. Those who not only take comfort from the company of a familiar voice coming out of their radio, but rely on it to keep going," she said. "The cuts are ableist, ageist."

The BBC is thought to have edited the programme because it did not contain a right to reply, contravening its guidelines. A spokesman said: "Part of this programme has been edited since broadcast for editorial reasons."

We won't tolerate threats to our

Billy Kenber
Senior Investigations Reporter
Steve Swinford Political Editor

Rishi Sunak has said that he was "emphatic" with Li Qiang, the Chinese premier, that the government will "never" tolerate actions that undermine British democracy after criticism by Tory MPs.

The prime minister said that the "sanctity" of parliament must be protected after a Tory parliamentary researcher was arrested on suspicion of spying.

Chris Cash, 28, worked as a researcher for Alicia Kearns, chairwoman of the Commons foreign affairs committee, and served as director of a China policy group co-founded by Tom Tugendhat, the security minister. The revelation last weekend that Cash had been arrested in March prompted anger from Tory MPs in the Commons yesterday, who accused the government of inaction over China. Some, including Suella Braverman, have called for it to designate the country as a threat.

Sunak, who spoke to Li at the weekend, said:"The sanctity of this place must be protected and the right of members to speak their minds without fear or sanction must be maintained.

"We will defend our democracy and our security. So I was emphatic with Premier Li that actions which seek to undermine British democracy are completely unacceptable and will never be tolerated."

Oliver Dowden, the deputy prime minister, told MPs that the UK would engage with China but the government was also "clear-eyed in protecting our national security". He said that there was a need for "constant vigilance" to root out attempts to interfere with British democracy.

The former Tory leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith said it was "appalling news that we have a potential cell operating in and around Westminster, an espionage cell".

He said that he and other sanctioned MPs were "particularly perturbed". Liz Truss, the former prime minister, said they were "worrying reports about the level of infiltration of Chinese-supported forces into our democracy".

Earlier Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Speaker, had defended the decision not to brief MPs at the time of Cash's arrest. He said that "the extremely small number of people who needed to know were immediately briefed on a strictly confidential basis given the national security of this sensitive matter".

The Speaker urged MPs not to discuss details of an "ongoing, sensitive investigation" or comment on the identities of those involved to avoid risking prejudicing potential future prosecutions.

MPs, including some who have been critics of China, questioned why they were not warned about his suspected involvement in spying and several had indicated they had contemplated using parliamentary privilege to name Cash.

The former minister Tim Loughton told Times Radio that he and other sanctioned MPs had written to the speaker demanding an explanation as to why "those of us most in the firing line" from China had not been given a private briefing about the apparent security breach.

He told MPs in the Commons: "I found out more about this character involved from my son, who just happened to be at university with him, than anything I've been told formally."

Finn Lau, a Hong Kong activist who is now living in the UK, said that he had met Cash last November and felt exposed by news of his alleged espionage for China. The government of Hong Kong has offered a financial reward for information leading to the arrest of Lau and seven other activists living overseas.

"It was only when the UK media exposed this that we know that guy has been arrested," Lau told The Wall Street Journal. "I haven't been briefed at all."

Questions have also been raised about vetting procedures as Cash held a parliamentary pass. Hoyle said: "Issues raised by the media stories are being addressed" and added that parliamentary officials were working "closely and effectively with relevant authorities".

We must fight China's secret offensive in Britain, leading article, page 27



Suella Braverman wants China designated a national threat



Finn Lau, who is wanted in Hong Kong, said he feels exposed after meeting Cash

Agents, political interference and 'secret' police stations

Politicians and their staff have long been warned of the risk of hostile states seeking to infiltrate Westminster and influence their activities.

In 2020, Britain expelled three Chinese spies who it said had been posing as journalists.

They were quietly asked to leave the country after MI5 concluded that they worked for China's Ministry of State Security and were using the cover of working for the country's press agencies, it was reported.

Last year MI5 issued a rare security alert warning MPs that a suspected Chinese spy, Christine Lee, was engaged in "political interference activities".

The authorities said that she had "established links" with current and prospective MPs on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Lee had made a number of political donations, including to Labour's Barry Gardiner who received more than £420,000 over five years. Lee's son was also employed by Gardiner until the alert was issued. She has denied any wrongdoing and is suing MI5.

China has faced global scrutiny after it emerged it had established a network of alleged overseas police stations which it was accused of using to intimidate dissidents and monitor Chinese nationals living abroad.

Several "secret police stations" were set up in the UK, including two in London, although those involved claimed that they were simply designed to help expats with administrative tasks such as removing their driving licences. The UK police stations have since closed.



Chris Cash was a tenacious rugby player during his school days in Edinburgh and

Tory MPs call for tougher stance

Continued from page 1

had been "emphatic" with Li Qiang, the Chinese premier, that the government would never tolerate actions that undermined British democracy.

Mark Sabah, of the Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation, told Times Radio he had met Cash several times. He said: "He was an important cog in the China aspect … in Westminster." Calling the allegations terrifying, he added: "I have no evidence or proof whatsoever that he did anything wrong. However, when somebody is exposed as a potential spy, it's inevitable that people immediately get afraid … they themselves may be in danger."

A succession of Tory MPs accused the government of inaction over China. The former prime minister Liz Truss described China as the largest threat to Britain and the world. Sir Iain Duncan Smith, another former Tory leader, said it was appalling that there was a potential "espionage cell" operating in and around Westminster.

Dowden said that although the government was "absolutely clear about the threat that China represents", it was right to engage with Beijing. Sunak has argued that Britain needs to be in the room if it is to hold China to account. Pushed by Truss to harden Britain's position on China, Dowden responded: "She's absolutely right that China presents a systemic challenge to our interests and values, and it is also the case … it is the No 1 state-based threat to our economic security."

Tim Loughton, a Tory MP who has been sanctioned by Beijing for criticising its policies, asked if China would be added to the enhanced tier of the registration scheme. Dowden said: "We are currently reviewing which countries are within that enhanced tier. I think there is a strong case to be made, but you would not expect me to make that announcement from the dispatch box until we have gone through the proper process related to it."

Sir Alex Younger, a former head of MI6, also said that China should be put on the enhanced list. He told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "Sometimes we have to be absolutely prepared to confront it when we believe that our security interests are threatened."

However, Kemi Badenoch, the business secretary, said Britain needed China to meet its net zero targets. On a tour of a Mini car factory in Oxford as she announced a £600 million investment to produce only electric cars by 2030, she said: "At the moment China is leading on this technology, so we wouldn't be able to get to where we want to get to on net zero by completely stopping or banning Chinese products."

Cat and mouse spy game

Behind the story

China has been trying to "catch up" with the West, using all means within its power to do so for decades. Some methods are legitimate, of course, such as its economic growth. At the other end of the scale, Beijing, Washington and London have deployed old-fashioned spies against each other for years (Richard Spencer writes).

However, in recent years western nations have begun to take measures against a range of "grey" tactics from industrial espionage to the "monitoring" of public discussion of issues like Taiwan or human rights. A year ago, Ken McCallum, the MI5 director-general, and Chris Wray, the FBI director, gave an unprecedented joint address to businessmen and academics, saying they needed to join forces to prevent China undermining the West's security and democratic values.

Microsoft gave a specific example in May that a state-sponsored Chinese hacking group had compromised critical US infrastructure. Cyberespionage groups run by the People's Liberation Army are suspected of targeting civilian companies, including Google, as far back as 2002. Google and other firms supplying software to companies and government departments

democracy, says under-fire PM



LYNNE CAMERON/PA



Chris Cash in the George Watson's College year book for 2012-13. Friends recall that he was an intelligent and sociable boy renowned for his networking skills



he is now challenging robustly the allegations that he spied for China while working as a political researcher at Westminster

I'm not a Chinese spy, insists arrested research assistant

Charlie Parker, Billy Kenber
Shayma Bakht

The parliamentary researcher arrested on suspicion of spying for China has said he is "completely innocent".

Chris Cash was a director of an influential China policy group in Westminster and worked as a researcher for a Tory MP before his arrest in March.

Friends who knew him at school and university have described him as an intelligent and sociable character who was renowned for his networking skills.

Yesterday, in a statement issued through the law firm Birnberg Peirce, he addressed the allegations for the first time, saying they were "against everything I stand for".

Cash, who was not named by his lawyers, said he had spent his career "trying to educate others about the challenge and threats presented by the Chinese Communist Party".

He said he felt "forced to respond to the media accusations I am a 'Chinese spy'" and hit out at "extravagant news reporting".

The 28-year-old, who worked for the China Research Group which was set up by Tom Tugendhat, now the security minister, abruptly disappeared from Westminster after his arrest in March.

Many of his colleagues and friends only discovered the reason for his departure when details of the apparent security breach emerged over the weekend.

The Council of Geostrategy, a non-profit organisation that produces research and strategies on the environment, named Cash as an associate fellow in Chinese Economics last spring but he stopped responding within days.

"It was in early spring he joined us as an associate fellow, within a few days he became unreachable," a spokeswoman said.

"We took the decision to remove him from his post and our website a few months later after still no response. We had no idea he had been arrested until this week."

Cash went to the fee-paying George Watson's College in Edinburgh before studying at the University of St Andrews.

A tongue-in-cheek profile in a school yearbook joked that Cash was "not afraid to speak his mind" and was "most likely to be captaining Scotland at cricket" after graduating.

At George Watson's, Cash was a head of house and a keen rugby player who played in the team which won an under 18's Scottish schools competition.

He was also the school's youngest first-team cricket captain and an enthusiastic debater who took part in model UN conferences. He then secured a place at St Andrews where he studied history.

Former students recalled him as an outspoken "big name on campus" who was "clearly going places".

After graduating, he spent two years teaching English literature at an international school in Hangzhou, near Shanghai, on a scheme run by the British Council. The language assistant programme offers paid teaching placements abroad to around 2,500 applicants from the UK.

A spokeswoman from the British Council said it could not confirm that those being sent to China were specifically prepared for the risk of being targeted by Chinese security authorities. She added that "comprehensive briefings and inductions are provided to language assistants participating in the programme, and all participants are issued with a code of conduct".

The council said Cash had been among the last participants of the scheme to go to China. The British Council stopped offering placements there during the pandemic and had no plans to resume them.

"This year, the programme has resumed in Hong Kong only; there are currently no plans for it to resume in other parts of China," the spokeswoman added.

After teaching in China, Cash returned to the UK to study for an MSc in China and globalisation at King's College London before securing a job as a researcher for the China Research Group, an influential group of MPs who have taken a generally critical position on China.

A fellow student who was at the college and university at the same time as Cash told The Times: "He did a few 'gap years' in China after St Andrews. It's mad. I suspect his interest developed as part of that.

"He was generally a pretty cocky guy. A master networker. Everyone [at school] knew who he was, even in the older year groups. He was a character. He added everyone on Facebook.

"He was amazing at cricket, promoted into the first eleven. He studied history and was active in societies, debating and model UN.

He added the news of his arrest had stunned former university students, saying: "Everyone is shocked. Although he was a bit cocky he was a nice guy, clearly quite bright and going places."



Cash was not afraid to speak his mind in school

with Beijing has taken a sinister turn

provide a "back door" into their computer systems.

There is wider concern about China gaining access to political "influencers", using Chinese students or even unwitting dupes to prevent discussion of sensitive issues on campuses.

In Britain the National Security Act, which became law in July, introduced a foreign influence registration scheme — based on laws passed in Australia in 2018 to combat the growing influence of China. Lobbyists working there on behalf of foreign states are required to register with the government within 14 days of undertaking their activities or face prison sentences of up to five years.

The US is ahead of Britain in several ways. It has banned federal employees from downloading TikTok, the Chinese-owned app, on government-issued electronic devices. And 28 states have banned officials from using TikTok at all.

The buying of agricultural land in the US by Chinese companies has stoked fears that it may be being used by the Chinese government to spy on US military installations. Last week, China was accused of sending citizens posing as tourists to test security at military installations by trying to enter them "by mistake".

A striking case was that of an expert in advanced engineering working for the American giant GE, who was asked to lecture at a Chinese university in 2017. It was only later the FBI told him he had unwittingly allowed himself to become a Chinese spy. The man who invited him was not a university representative but an agent of the Chinese state security ministry, Xu Yanjun, who plugged him for information. The FBI "turned" the engineer, using him to feed information to the Chinese and, eventually, lure Xu to Belgium where he was arrested and extradited. After his trial, Xu was shown to have also targeted French aviation experts and recruited a Chinese student who managed to enrol in the US army reserve. Sentenced to 20 years in jail it was a rare case of a spymaster, not just spy, being jailed.

CHRIS STRICKLAND



Here's looking at ewe About 23,000 mule gimmers were sold in two days at Hawes market, North Yorkshire. A gimmer is a ewe in her second year that has not had a lamb

Half of voters adamantly anti-Tory

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

More than half of voters say there are no circumstances in which they would consider supporting the Conservatives at the next general election because the party is seen as too right wing on issues that matter to them.

Research by YouGov found that while voters shared Tory concerns on trans rights and illegal migration, they were more aligned with Labour in areas of policy they cared most about.

A separate YouGov poll recorded Rishi Sunak's lowest approval rating since he became prime minister with 26 per cent of voters having a favourable opinion of him. Just under 40 per cent of Conservative voters in 2019 said they had an unfavourable view of both Sunak and the Conservatives.

The YouGov research attempted to gauge voter attitudes across a range of areas by asking them on a scale of one to ten to say how closely they agreed with a number of statements. It then asked them to say where they thought the main political parties stood on the issues. The poll found that on cutting taxes versus spending more on healthcare, for instance, voters associated their views as closer to those of Labour.

Respondents backed more spending on health, education and law and order, but thought the Tories would spend more on defence which was low on their list of priorities.

Overall voters characterised themselves 4.6 out of ten on a scale where zero was left wing and ten was right wing. They placed Sir Keir Starmer at 3.9 per cent on the same scale and Rishi Sunak on 7.3 per cent, suggesting they saw Starmer's values as more aligned with their own. The poll, for the strategy consultancy WPI, also found that 54 per cent of voters would "definitely" not support the Conservatives at the next election compared with 32 per cent who said the same of Labour.

Claire Ainsley, who was Labour's executive director of policy until last year, said: "Political positioning of the parties has profound implications for the outcome of the next election. It suggests that even if Sunak delivers on his five pledges and narrows the competence gap, he and his party are seen as well out of line with where the public is."

Sean Worth, a former Downing Street adviser who works at WPI, said even though the Tories had spent "huge amounts" on public services over 13 years they had got little credit for it in terms of voters' perceptions. He said: "Without a boost to living standards and [better] economic growth the Conservatives will struggle on other issues."

Sunak's approval ratings are lower than those of Boris Johnson when he was ousted , but he is more popular than his party, the YouGov poll suggested. The Tories have an approval rating of minus 48 while Sunak has an approval rating of minus 41. Labour is more popular than Starmer who has an approval rating of minus 20 compared with an approval rating for Labour of minus 11.

Mandarin told staff he was a Remainer

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

A former head civil servant at the Foreign Office has revealed that he told colleagues he voted Remain in the 2016 Brexit referendum.

Lord McDonald of Salford, the permanent under-secretary from 2015 to 2020, has admitted that he ignored civil service impartiality rules to boost morale and "maintain credibility" in a department that was "in mourning" after Britain voted to leave the EU.

The Treasury was also pressing for a "soft Brexit", Lord Hammond of Runnymede, the former chancellor, confirms in a BBC documentary on Brexit, *Laura Kuenssberg: State of Chaos*.

The comments are likely to reignite accusations from Conservatives that the civil service was working against Brexit. Such claims increased tensions between ministers and civil servants under Boris Johnson's government.

All sides are unhappy about immigration

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Public dissatisfaction with the government's handling of immigration is at its highest since before the Brexit referendum, according to a new survey.

Two thirds of the public are unhappy with the way the government is dealing with immigration, and only 12 per cent say they are satisfied. This is the highest level of dissatisfaction recorded by the Immigration Attitudes Tracker since the think tank British Future started the survey, in 2015. The polling was done by Ipsos Mori.

The top reason given for dissatisfaction was the failure to stop Channel crossings, but responses were divided by politics. Labour supporters were more likely to be unhappy about "creating a negative or fearful environment for migrants". Of Tory supporters, 82 per cent said they were dissatisfied because the government was "not doing enough to stop Channel crossings".



Device Plan	Device	Duration of Credit Agreement	Monthly	Credit Amount	Upfront Cost	Total / Cash Price	Representative APR	Airtime Plan 8GB + 2 Xtra Benefits	Duration	Monthly
	Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra	36 months	£27	£972	£49	£1,021	0%		24 months	£11pm

***Each April, the monthly price shown plus out of bundle charges will increase by that year's January CPI rate + 3.9%. Device Plans will not be affected: vodafone.co.uk/CPI.** 25GB roam fair use & terms apply: vodafone.co.uk/terms. **Vodafone EVO:** Device Plan Credit Agreement with an Airtime Plan. You can pay off your Device Plan early, and if you do, keep your Airtime Plan on a 30-day contract or leave. **£504 saving on an airtime and device plan:** £288 airtime saving (was £23pm, now £11pm = £12 x 24 months); £216 device saving (device cost was £1,188 now £972 = £6pm x 36 months). **Google Lens** is a trademark of Google LLC. **Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct debit required. Credit provided by Vodafone Limited, FCA Number: 712210, Vodafone House, The Connection, Newbury, RG14 2FN.**

Leaked recording exposes Guardian turmoil over transgender rights

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

The Guardian is embroiled in more turmoil over its stance on the trans debate, with an internal meeting setting staff at loggerheads.

The newspaper has struggled for months to balance tensions between pro-trans supporters and those who consider trans rights to be damaging to women's rights. Journalists including Suzanne Moore and Hadley Freeman left as a result of the row.

The media group called an "untangling sex and gender" meeting in April so staff could discuss the way the newspaper covers women's rights.

In a recording leaked to the US media website Semafor, the journalists Sonia Sodha and Susanna Rustin argued that trans women should be separated from other women in certain spaces.

Sodha, chief leader writer of the Observer, said: "I've had attempts to try and get me kicked off charitable boards. I've been doxxed [having personal information published] online by people who disagree with me on this issue. I've had my home address published online. It's just an example of how toxic and polarised this debate is."

Four gender-critical speakers claimed they had been harassed because of their views, with one deputy editor noting that attempts to organise internal events had resulted in "efforts to loudly, even violently, protest or stop meetings taking place". No one rebutted these views before 150 attendees.

However, the imbalance in speakers subsequently left many in the newsroom furious because it was held during the newspaper's diversity, equity and inclusion week, Semafor reported.

One former staffer said: "As long as the Guardian bows to Guardian US, I don't see much changing."

Last week one journalist criticised the Irish singer Róisín Murphy's view on puberty blockers in an album review. Laura Snapes, deputy music editor, gave Murphy's *Hit Parade* a five-star rating, but noted that the singer's comments that "mixed-up kids" needed protection meant that the album would be "compromised for many fans". In the review that was headlined "a masterful album with an ugly stain", Snapes said: "I totally disagree with Murphy's views and understand why for many fans, particularly queer fans, this album is DOA."

Women's Rights Network said on X/Twitter: "There's a very ugly stain here, but it isn't the masterful album or its creator. A new low for the Guardian — begrudgingly reviewing & crediting her work, while desperately & viciously appeasing the witch-hunters."

The Guardian declined to comment.

Teachers at top ballet schools 'shamed pupils about weight'

Jack Malvern

Pupils who attended leading ballet schools have described long-term trauma after experiencing "toxic" attitudes towards weight.

Dino Nocivelli, a partner in the abuse department at the law firm Leigh Day, said he had spoken to 30 individuals who believed their mental health had suffered because of instructors' behaviour. Some developed eating disorders.

Some are now seeking to bring civil cases for failure in their duty of care.

"Some don't have mirrors in their houses," Nocivelli said. "Some have chosen not to have children. Some have bone density problems. Some don't expose their arms or legs in public."

More than 50 individuals who attended schools including the Royal Ballet School in southwest London and Elmhurst Ballet School in Edgbaston, Birmingham, spoke to the BBC's *Panorama* and *File on 4* podcast investigations teams about what they viewed as a dangerous culture.



Grace Owen, 22, a former pupil at Elmhurst, which has the Queen as a patron, recalled that a teacher had taunted her class by saying there were doughnuts available but only one pupil was allowed to eat any. "[This was] implying that she could eat them because she was of the right weight, and no one else," Owen told *Panorama*. "Everyone else — you're too fat for them." She said that her graduation party in 2020 was marred by another teacher who told a group of pupils: "All you girls, bar one or two, need to lose weight, otherwise you're not going to get a job."

India Thompson, who attended the Royal Ballet School between 2007 and 2012, said that teachers used an offensive euphemism when her body began changing because of puberty. "I started to get boobs and a bum … so then it all starts with all the 'You need to lengthen out' comments, which doesn't mean anything really unless you know what it means —you need to lose weight … [It was like] being bullied on a daily basis."

Ellen Elphick, 30, has begun legal action against Elmhurst, where she studied for five years before going to the Royal Ballet School in 2009. She said one teacher pointed at parts of her body that she would need to lose if she wished to be a dancer. "She said 'if I had a knife, this is what I would cut off'. She literally cut my entire bum off, half my thigh, and a third of my calf. I was filled with hate for my body."

Harriet Royle was 13 when she started at Elmhurst and, after suffering extreme weight loss, was eventually admitted to hospital where she stayed for seven months. She was told by teachers to work on her aerobic fitness, which she understood to be a call to lose weight.

JOHAN PERSSON / ARENAPAL



Ellen Elphick; Grace Owen, inset; and Harriet Royle, left, studied as teenagers

The Royal Ballet School, which has the King as its patron, said that nothing was more important than its students' happiness and wellbeing and it was "continuously improving and innovating" to protect them. "Issues arise [sometimes] and when they do we have well-established processes in place to ensure they are addressed effectively." It said that the cases described by the BBC were either "investigated and resolved at the time" or did not align with its records.

Elmhurst told the BBC that it recognised some descriptions but "duties of confidentiality" prevented it from commenting and that its records "vary in some significant" ways from the claims.

Nocivelli said that his clients were seeking acknowledgement of abuse. Asked if ballet students should expect to conform to strict body shapes traditional in ballet, he said that the problem was how teachers approached it.

Arrest after pond death of girl, two

Seren Hughes

A woman has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a two-year-old girl died last night having been found in a village pond the day before.

The child was reported missing from her home in Kingsley, Hampshire, at 5pm on Sunday.

A short time later she was found unresponsive at the nearby Kingsley Pond and taken to hospital, Hampshire police said. Medical staff were unable to save her and she died in hospital yesterday afternoon. Her family are being supported by officers.

A woman in her 40s has been arrested on suspicion of murder and remains in custody, police said.

The force is working to establish the circumstances of the girl's death and has urged anyone with information to come forward.

Many villagers found out about the incident at a service at the church next to the pond, according to the BBC.

The Rev Matt Boyes, vicar of All Saints, said: "As a parish we are praying for the family and all those involved in this situation. It's every parent's nightmare for this to be happening and the impact on the wider community will be very huge as well."

Hampshire police said: "Police were called at 5.02pm on Sunday, September 10 to a report of a two-year-old girl who had gone missing from her home on Forge Road, Kingsley, Bordon.

"She was found a short time later in Kingsley Pond. She was taken to hospital in a serious condition but sadly died this afternoon. Her family are being supported by officers.

"Officers are working to establish exactly what happened and are keen to speak to anyone who was in the area of Kingsley Pond yesterday, prior to the incident. A woman, aged in her 40s, has been arrested on suspicion of murder. She is currently in police custody."

Children taken from Pakistan home of Sara Sharif's grandfather

Charlie Faulkner Islamabad

Five children who travelled with Sara Sharif's father from the UK to Pakistan have been taken into custody as part of the investigation into her suspected murder, police have confirmed.

Yesterday afternoon, dozens of officers raided the grandfather's house where the children had been hiding in Jhelum, northeastern Pakistan, neighbours said.

After the raid, police officers said they were "hopeful" that they would be able to trace Sara's father, Urfan, 41, and her stepmother Beinash Batool, 29, but that the children would be returned to their grandparents who would not face further charges.

The ten-year-old's body was found at her home in Woking, Surrey, on August 10. Her father and stepmother had fled the UK the previous day, along with Batool's brother, Faisal Shahzad Malik, 28, and five children aged between two and 13.

Urfan called the British emergency services after he landed in Pakistan, then went into hiding. British police have opened a murder investigation.

Muhammad Sharif, Sara's grandfather, who had denied having knowledge of or involvement in his son's whereabouts, has now admitted to having hidden the children at his home.

During the police operation in Pakistan, bystanders were prevented from recording the events on their phones, witnesses told the BBC.

Syed Khurram Ali, a regional police officer, said: "We responded to a missing and locate notice from Interpol. We will ask the court for sureties that [the grandparents] will not move [the children] from Jhelum without permission from the court.



Sara Sharif, ten, was found dead in her home in Surrey last month

"The grandfather has not been cooperating with us. We know he must know the whereabouts of everybody. For [a] month he denied [having] any contact with family members Then we found the children at [his] house."

Sara's father and stepmother have been seen only in one video since they fled the UK. In the footage, Batool referred to Sara's death as an "incident" and said that she and Urfan were willing to co-operate with the authorities.

Ali said: "We don't have any positive clues [about Urfan, Batool and Malik's whereabouts]. But we feel they are close to surrendering."

Deadly e-bike blaze prompts call for tighter safety rules

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

Rules on the sale and usage of e-bike batteries must be tightened, a coroner has said after a man died in a fire started by a faulty device.

Mizanur Rahman, 41, was killed in Shadwell, east London, in March when he was unable to escape his flat after the battery from an e-bike owned by a flatmate burst into flames while charging. He became the ninth person to die in the UK in the past year from fires attributed to faulty lithium-ion batteries.



Mizanur Rahman was killed when his flatmate's e-bike caught fire

Adam Smith, the assistant coroner for inner north London, has highlighted a lack of standards controlling the type of bicycle batteries and chargers on sale in the UK. He has sent a prevention of future deaths report to officials at the Office for Product Safety and Standards, pointing out that it had the "ability to introduce" a rule.

The report follows Rahman's inquest last month, which was told that he died from the effects of smoke inhalation during the fire on the fourth floor of his block of flats. The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death.

At the hearing, a London Fire Brigade official revealed that there had been more e-bike and e-scooter fires in the capital so far this year than in the whole of any previous year.

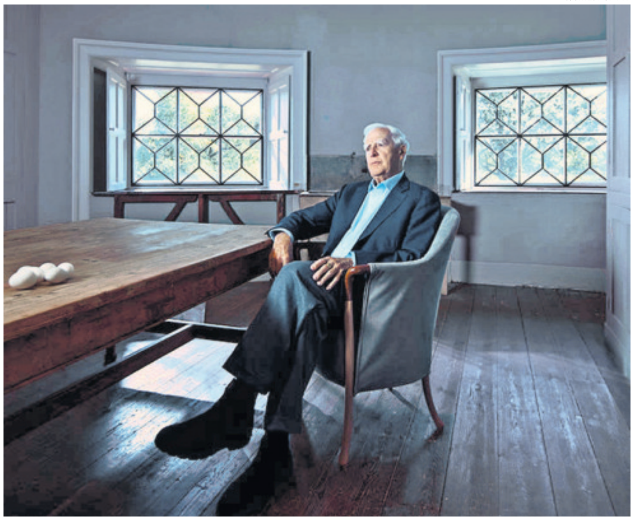
The e-bike at Rahman's flat had been heavily modified, including an extra battery cage and motor. The fire was started by a "faulty lithium-ion battery" that probably did not match the voltage rating of the charger. That mismatch was likely to have led to thermal runaway and failure of the lithium-ion battery, according to the coroner's report.

Smith referred to evidence from the fire brigade that said that Rahman's death was the ninth in six fires this year that experts said were caused by faulty lithium-ion batteries. He noted that lithium-ion batteries "that are not of sufficient quality or otherwise not of an appropriate standard to charge safely" were easily bought online.

He said there was "an increased risk of people mixing and matching batteries with chargers that carry a different voltage rating", rapidly leading to a "catastrophic" battery failure.

Officials are under a duty to respond to the report by October 24.

COURTESY OF TIFF



John le Carré shows a startling clarity about his own damaged development

Le Carré lays bare pain that shaped him

Television Kevin Maher

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John le Carré casts a cold eye on his early troubled life in this riveting documentary from the Oscar-winning filmmaker Errol Morris (*The Fog of War*). Shot in 2020, it's the last interview given by the 89-year-old star subject (born David Cornwell) and it finds him in spellbinding form, reaching into his childhood and finding only betrayal, despair and a kind of curdled inspiration for the novelist he became.

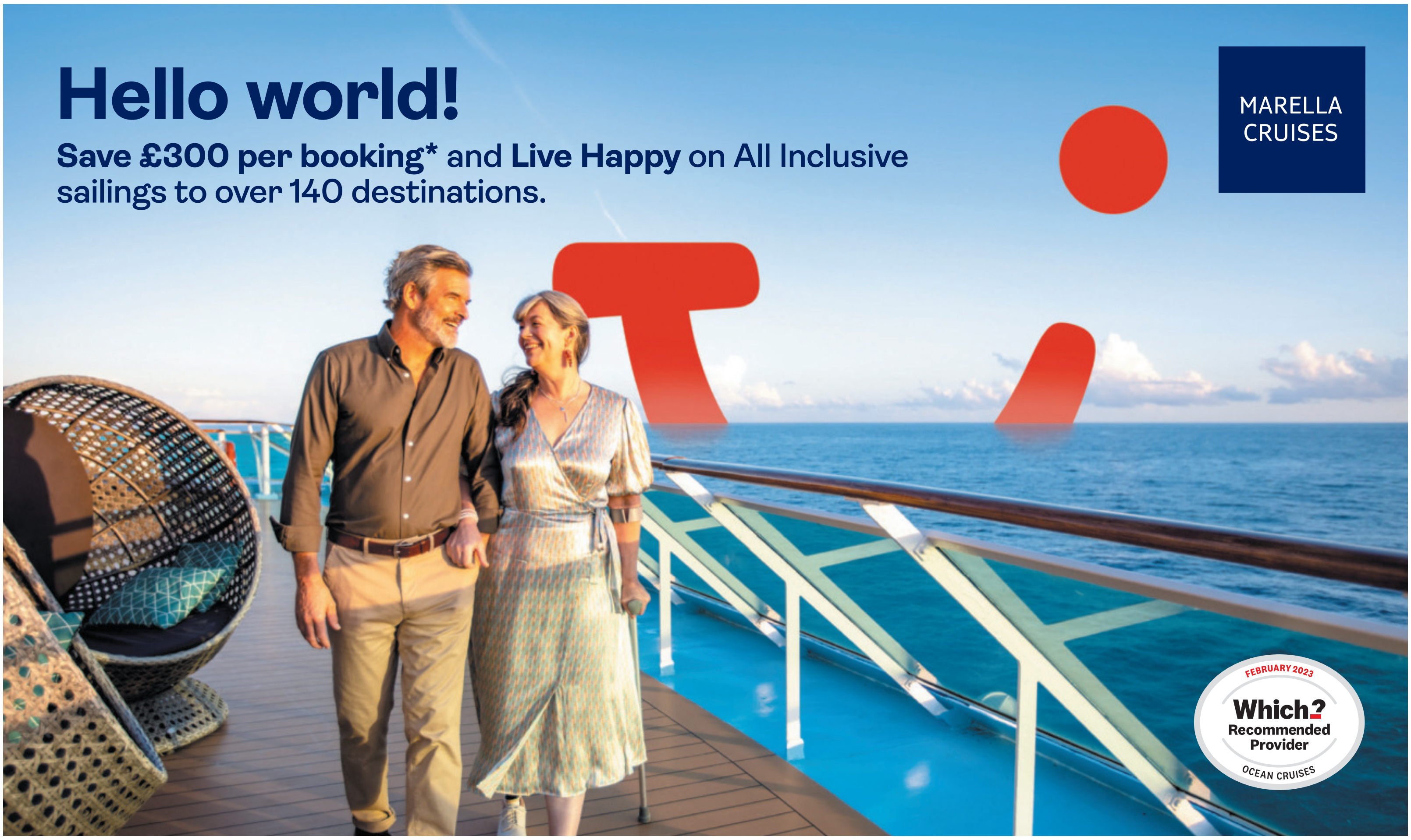
"I enjoy very much talking about these things I've not talked about before," he says, midway, to Morris (off-camera but audible throughout). And although le Carré has spoken before about his "confidence trickster" father, Ronnie, there is a clarity here about his own damaged development that is startling. "You polish your act," le Carré says, of the defining life lessons he absorbed from Ronnie. "You learn to tell funny stories. Show off. You discover early that there is no centre to a human being."

This existential despair is delivered with the lovely upbeat lilt of an avuncular schoolmaster. "This is not a lament," he notes cheerily. "This is just self-examination." Seconds later, he's describing his mother, who abandoned him when he was five, as "emotionally impenetrable. I never heard her express a serious feeling."

He does eventually move on, guided by Morris, to the Oxford years, his brief time with MI5 and MI6, and his flowering as a writer of gritty spy novels that emerged to contradict the cartoon glamour of James Bond — le Carré's agents were a "shabby army of lonely outsiders … in a crippled organisation that could so easily have been scrapped". But it's to Ronnie and his scams that the film consistently returns. And in the anecdotes of bookmaker cons, gambling stunts and arms dealing in Jakarta, le Carré presents himself as someone for whom any concept of personal identity is hollow, and betrayal paramount.

Stylistically, it is one of the least ambitious films Morris has directed (for good reason) and is essentially constructed around that knockout central conversation, with cutaways to film and TV adaptations as well as several conspicuous shots of le Carré in front of, or near, mirrors — a hint that this le Carré may not be "real" either? It's only 90 minutes long. Yet with a subject this complex and commanding, that's almost too short.

On AppleTV+ from October 20



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Terror suspect 'may have fled jail using bedsheets as straps'

David Brown

Daniel Khalife may have escaped from prison by using bedsheets to strap himself to the underside of a delivery lorry, a court was told yesterday.

The suspected terrorist is alleged to have escaped from HMP Wandsworth on Wednesday last week. He was arrested on a canal towpath in northwest London at 10.41am on Saturday, after a huge police search.

Khalife, 21, who was a soldier at the time of his arrest in January, arrived at Westminster magistrates' court in an armoured police van. He was expressionless in the dock during the eight-minute hearing, and spoke only to give his name and date of birth.

He faces one charge of having been "in lawful custody on a criminal charge, escaped from the said custody".

Gul Nawaz Hussain KC, representing Khalife, said: "There is no indication to plea."

A member of the public had reported having seen a man matching Khalife's description walking away from a food delivery van that had left the prison, the court was told.

Thomas Williams, for the prosecution, said: "A makeshift strap made of material, possibly bedsheets, with clips at each end was found under the lorry, near some marks which were consistent with someone having been there."

A plain-clothes police officer in an unmarked vehicle drove at speed after receiving a report that Khalife had been seen on a bicycle on the path beside a canal at Rowdell Road, Northolt, on Saturday morning.

Williams said: "The officer ran to intercept Khalife, drew his Taser and gave a warning for Khalife to get down, which he did. He was arrested for being unlawfully at large. He had with him a bag containing cash and a mobile phone."

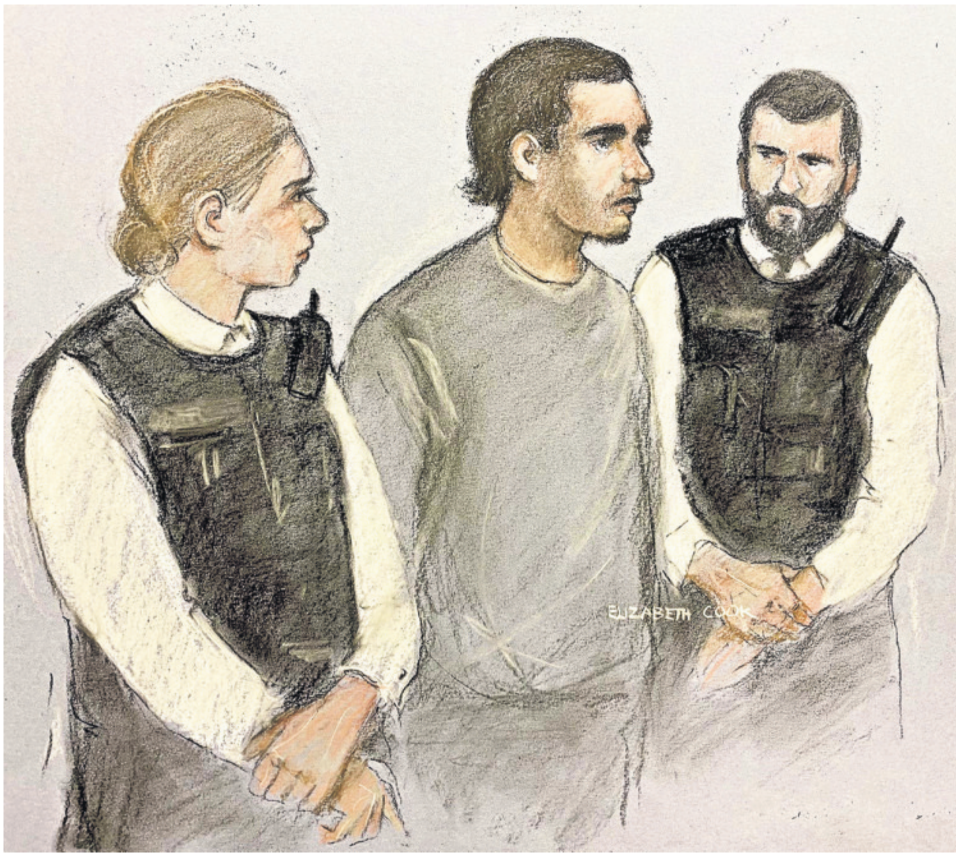
He said that Khalife had had receipts on him indicating that he had bought food and a change of clothes, and possibly topped up a mobile phone.

Williams said that Khalife told police that the lorry driver had not had any idea of what he was doing.

Judge Tam Ikram rejected an application for Khalife to wear handcuffs in the dock. He remanded him in custody to appear at the Old Bailey on September 29.

Khalife, from Kingston in southwest London, dropped out of Teddington School at 16 and joined the army in 2018. He was being held on remand at Wandsworth prison, awaiting trial on charges of allegedly obtaining information useful to the enemy, eliciting information about members of the armed forces contrary to the Terrorism Act 2000, and perpetrating a bomb hoax.

He has denied all the charges against him.





Daniel Khalife, 21, spoke only to give his name and date of birth. Left, the bedsheet sling said to have been used for his prison escape

'My son was happy with life in army'

Duncan Gardham

The mother of Daniel Khalife, the suspected terrorist who escaped from Wandsworth prison last week, has urged him to seek help, saying that he "does not live in reality".

Farnaz Khalife, 47, a former nurse from Kingston, southwest London, moved to Wales in 2020, two years after her son joined the army.

Khalife, 21, who attended Marshgate Primary School in North Sheen and Teddington School, had enjoyed watching TV programmes about the SAS and always wanted to join the regiment, his mother said.

He was told he had to go through the regular army first and ordered weights and started working out at home. Mrs Khalife, who looks after her son's Maltese dog, Fluffy, had enrolled him on a Btec paramedic course at Richmond College but his heart was set on entering the army.



Daniel Khalife enjoyed the discipline of the services, his mother said

With her consent he joined at the age of 16, attending the Army Foundation College in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, before basic training in Pirbright, Surrey, and then the Defence School of Communications Information Systems in Blandford Forum, Dorset.

He was eventually posted to the 1st Signal Brigade of the Royal Signals at Beacon Barracks, Stafford. "The army was so strict. He was disciplined, he was happy," Mrs Khalife said.

She said her son had become more distant after he turned 18 and "hardly called". He had visited her once in Wales but only briefly came into the house. The last time she saw him was at Christmas when she was on her way to Teddington, where her daughter lives, and spotted him at a bus stop.

Mrs Khalife, who was born in Iran but does not support the regime, urged her son to seek psychiatric help, adding that he had been suffering from episodes of mental illness since he was a teenager. "I told him to go to the army doctor to get help but I don't think he did," she said.

Met boss calls for justice system overhaul

Mario Ledwith

The high proportion of crimes going unsolved or not being prosecuted will continue until bureaucracy in the justice system is overhauled, The Metropolitan Police commissioner has suggested.

Sir Mark Rowley called for ministers to introduce policies that "let the police police", arguing that paperwork was limiting officers' ability to carry out frontline work.

The head of the UK's largest police force said officers had five times the workload to bring a case to court that they had two decades ago, and had duties that could be carried out by prosecutors.

In a sweeping speech at an event organised by Policy Exchange, a think tank, Rowley made the pitch for criminal justice reform as he continued to seek a culture of change within the Met after a series of scandals caused public trust to plummet. Failings were exposed by the case of the serving officer Wayne Couzens, and in a review by Baroness Casey of Blackstock this year that concluded that the Met was institutionally racist, sexist and misogynistic.

Rowley, who on Tuesday will mark one year in the role, said he would keep trying to purge the hundreds of unfit officers who remained in the force.

Police chiefs will be given greater powers of dismissal under government reforms due to be introduced next year. Despite his vow to "come down hard on those who do not meet our standards", Rowley said a system of "dispiriting oversight" was taking a heavy toll on honest officers.

Rowley said his calls for greater powers of dismissal for unfit officers needed to be balanced against oversight that blows "around on whims of opinion".

"Dispiriting oversight — unfair oversight — creates hesitancy in their minds and that undermines their ability to confront dangerous criminals," he said.

Rowley said policymakers needed to show "precision" in order to enable better policing after two decades of mistakes. "This is about mission creep, bureaucracy and oversight that dispirits the tens of thousands dedicated officers we have working in London and across the UK," he said.

Pointing towards a 28 per cent per capita decrease in funding over the past decade, Rowley called for the home secretary, Suella Braverman, to rethink police funding.

Rowley refused to be drawn on Braverman's recent criticism of police forces "pandering to politically correct causes", saying only: "We don't dance with protesters."

VIP protection not a police function, former chief says

David Woode Crime Correspondent

The elite VIP protection unit where Wayne Couzens and David Carrick worked should be given to the military, a former counter-terrorism chief of the Metropolitan Police has said.

Neil Basu, who was Britain's most senior ethnic-minority police officer until he retired last year, said that the parliamentary and diplomatic protection unit was "not a police function".

The armed unit, stationed in Westminster, is responsible for protecting prominent people and sensitive sites, including Downing Street.

Basu told delegates yesterday at the Police Superintendents' Association conference in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire: "When I retired, I recommended that if I was in front of any parliamentary committee that [the unit] should no longer be a policing responsibility. It is not a police function, it's a function performed by the military quite successfully — it doesn't require a policing mentality."

He added that the unit fostered a culture of separatism in which officers felt "special and entitled".

Couzens, 50, used his warrant card to abduct Sarah Everard, 33, before raping her, murdering her and burning her body. He was given a whole-life order in September 2021. Carrick, 48, carried out more than 80 sexual offences including 48 rapes, despite having been reported to police for offences against women. In February he was jailed for life with a minimum 30 years.

News

Migrants joining smuggler gangs

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

People smugglers are tutoring migrants in violence and criminality, pulling them into their gangs with offers of cut-price deals on Channel crossings.

The smugglers are getting migrants to do their work by forcing families across the Channel using weapons and violence, taking on debt collection services and providing protection and lookouts for other crossings.

In return for helping in northern France, these migrants get a reduced rate to cross to Britain, where they are then put to work as "hardened criminals" for British-based organised gangs, according to sources in northern France.

Downing Street admitted yesterday that France and the UK could do more to tackle the flow of migrants after more than 2,000 people crossed the Channel last week. Smugglers appear to be packing more people into the boats over the 21-mile stretch of sea as 389 migrants arrived in only six vessels, an average of 65 per boat.

The recruitment of migrants to inflict violence is said to have created alarm among law enforcement agencies in Britain who are expecting an influx of hardened criminals. The tactic was used in the case of six Afghan migrants who drowned when their boat capsized in the Channel last month. Four people were arrested in France over the deaths, two Iraqis in their 40s and two Sudanese men. The two Sudanese were due to make the journey themselves but had been recruited by the gang to help with the fatal crossing.

They were alleged to have used force and to have known that the boat was in a dangerous state. In return for helping the gangs, they were to get cheaper deals on their own journeys.

The prosecutors' office in Paris said: "The two Sudanese, aged 17 and 26, are suspected of having participated in the transport of passengers in dangerous conditions, in return for a privileged fare on their own passage."

A source said: "The people smugglers are recruiting and then tutoring the migrants to work for them. They are also providing protection for senior smugglers and keeping lookout. It's risky and tough work but in return they get a cheaper trip to Britain.

"They then feel indebted to the gang, so when they're in Britain they are put to work in car washes, factories and cannabis farms. These people are ruthless and will stop at nothing to get a cheaper crossing."

Nigel Mills, a Conservative MP, said: "This is a very worrying development. It raises serious questions about who is coming over, and what they have done to get here. At what criminal lengths have these people gone to to get to Britain? It's a very threatening situation."

Last week two migrants who were in a mob that attacked a group of French gendarmes and foiled their attempt to stop a small boat launch were jailed for trying to arrive in the UK illegally. Canterbury crown court was told that Salih Taib Abdullah and Omar Saleh Khater were involved in an affray on Oye Plage, a beach near Calais, on June 16 after French officers were attacked by migrants trying to travel to the UK on a boat.

Three officers were injured: one suffered a blow to his calf; one an open wound to his head; and another a blow to his side.

Labour reported yesterday that 40,745 migrants have crossed the Channel since Suella Braverman became home secretary this time last year.



Withholding ID papers 'a bar to asylum'

Matt Dathan

Migrants who fail to prove their identity or refuse to allow officials to access their phones will be sanctioned by new rules that will make them less likely to be granted asylum.

Changes in legislation that will be introduced on September 28 will allow Home Office officials to use a claimant's refusal to co-operate against them when deciding whether to grant them asylum.

An updated criteria for caseworkers assessing the credibility of claims will explicitly set out that factors such as the destruction of or failure to produce an identity document, as well as refusal to disclose information required to access an electronic device such as a phone passcode when asked, should be considered when assessing claims.

The Home Office said that the new rules would affect the 175,457 migrants with outstanding asylum claims as well as new migrants entering the UK, including the daily small boat arrivals.

The Illegal Migration Act will bar migrants who enter the UK illegally from claiming asylum but those rules will not come into effect until next year as the government does not yet have anywhere to deport them to. Its policy to send illegal migrants to Rwanda has been delayed by legal action, with a Supreme Court hearing set to rule whether it is lawful next month.

Other measures include x-ray testing of migrants who claim to be children.

Robert Jenrick, immigration minister, said: "Implementing the measures within our landmark Illegal Migration Act marks a crucial step forwards in our fight against illegal migration."

Quintagram® No 1731

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Hasty, foolhardy (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Drenched (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Border covering a curtain rail (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Glasses, goggles etc (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 US term for a tram (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	C	D	E	E
E	E	E	E	E	E	H	K
L	M	O	P	R	R	R	R
S	S	S	T	T	T	W	Y

Solutions MindGames in Times2
Cryptic clues every day online

Ofsted death comment

The chief inspector of Ofsted has apologised for saying that the inspection of a school whose head teacher took her own life had been "reviewed to death". Amanda Spielman made the comment at a meeting last week but immediately retracted it, the Schools Week website said. Ruth Perry was the head of Caversham Primary School in Berkshire. She died in January, weeks before the publication of an "inadequate" rated Ofsted report. Perry's inquest will be held in November.

Parliament has Raac

The concrete posing a risk of collapse in dozens of schools has also been found in parliament. A parliamentary spokesman said that reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (Raac) had been identified as "part of routine ongoing investigations" but posed no "immediate risk". The material, which was used in construction in the 1960s and 70s but is reaching the end of its safe life, has also been found in hospitals, courts and airports.

Looted stones in shop

Four large carved stones that are thought to have beeen looted from Yemen have been found in an interior design shop in east London. The funerary steles, or monuments, date from the first half of the first millennium. The owner of the shop was not aware of their provenance and handed them to law enforcement. They will be temporarily held by the V&A in central London, which will exhibit them in two years.

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Royal wedding designer leaves top fashion house

MARTIN MEISSNER/AP





Sarah Burton, of Alexander McQueen, created the Princess of Wales's dress

She was the right-hand woman who took centre stage when the designer Alexander McQueen died by suicide in February 2010 (Harriet Walker writes). Now Sarah Burton, best known for creating the Princess of Wales's wedding gown in April 2011, is leaving the label that she inherited, and which still bears his name.

Burton, 49, announced yesterday that the spring 2024 collection due to be shown in Paris as usual at the end of this month would be her last for the brand. She has worked at McQueen for 26 years, after joining as an intern in 1997.

"The team … are my family and this has been my home," she said. "Lee Alexander McQueen taught me so much and I am eternally grateful to him. I … will always carry this treasured time with me."

Burton, who was born in Macclesfield and trained at St Martin's in central London, has dressed celebrities such as Cate Blanchett, Michelle Obama and Sarah Jessica Parker in her 14 years as creative director at Alexander McQueen. But it is for the princess's wedding dress that she will enter the history books: its full skirt, fitted bodice and long lace sleeves remain one of the looks most requested by brides around the world, not to mention the most imitated by other designers.

Burton's design, and her involvement, were kept secret until the day of the wedding. She told Vogue: "Even my mum called and asked, 'You would tell me, wouldn't you?' "

Burton is credited with steering the label through the turmoil of McQueen's death and the subsequent interest in his life and work.

Though his unique avant garde approach ensured round-the-block queues for tickets to museum retrospectives after his death, it is by no means certain that the Royals would have worn the label had McQueen been in charge. It was under Burton that Alexander McQueen became a commercial success rather than simply critically acclaimed. She steered the label away from the revealing trousers and fetish gear of his wild years and towards a more bankable type of occasion-wear, incorporating his signature sharp-shouldered tailoring, cinched waists and fascination with couture-level craftmanship.

Burton is the last of a whole crop of British women once in charge at Parisian luxury brands. Phoebe Philo left Celine in 2017 and Claire Waight Keller, of Chloé and Givenchy, departed from the latter in 2020. Both are launching new collections this autumn. Perhaps Burton has something else up her sleeve, too.

Shoplifters slip beneath TikTok's filter to share tips and targets

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Experienced shoplifters are using TikTok to spread a playbook of tactics on how to steal goods such as clothes, jewellery and make-up from retailers.

Users on the video-sharing platform have rated high-street stores on the basis of how easy it is to get away with shoplifting and offered tips on avoiding detection.

They swap the words "stealing" and "shoplifting" with "borrowing" to evade detection by TikTok's filters.

A search for "borrowing tips and tricks" on the app generates a host of videos, many from accounts clearly created to advertise shoplifting techniques. The self-declared "borrowers" urge shoplifters not to target small businesses but instead steal from large companies who are less likely to intervene because they can cover the losses.

Other videos show users rating shops on how easy they are to steal goods from, with factors to look out for such as cameras, security guards, blind spots and the number of changing rooms.

Chris Philp, the crime and policing minister, said last night that he was "horrified" that TikTok was allowing the advice on its platforms and said he would be requesting an urgent meeting with the company's bosses. "They should not be facilitating the spread of criminal practice," he said.

One TikTok account, named "x_borrowing.tings_x", says in a video that Primark is the easiest store to steal from, giving it a 10/10 rating because it "[doesn't] check how many items you take to the changing room" and its cameras have "lots of blind spots". Asda was rated second highest, noting that the make-up aisle was a good target and that its toys are "so easy to get".

Wilko was graded 9/10 because its cameras have blind spots and its security stickers are "easily peeled off".

The user warns shoplifters away from Superdrug, which scored 5/10, because "security is getting better and not as many blind spots" but adds: "Easy for lip glosses though." The discount store Savers gets 2/10 because there are "lots of cameras and workers walk around a lot, will follow you if they think you're suspicious".

Another account, named "borrowertipz", has posted a series of videos on how to steal jewellery.

In one post, the user advises: "Bending down to tie your shoes is a good way to tie rings or bracelets to them." The accompanying video offers viewers a "how to" guide.

Another video says: "Tying shirt in the front is a good way to hide small things."

Fellow shoplifters leave feedback and further tips on the videos. One user commented: "Don't borrow from small businesses, or places with lots of cameras and security. Go for low security businesses."

Another user with the slogan "we borrow sh!t", advises shoplifters to "wear baggy clothes but also try to dress to the weather".

"Wear long sleeve shirts/sweater/hoodies so you can slip things in to your sleeve," it adds. "If you're with other people stay with them and cover them while someone borrows."

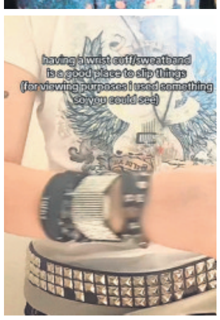
Accounts also give tips on what to do if you are caught, with one suggesting that viewers explain that they were being followed and they deliberately stole something to attract security. Other tips shared are to "act like you're looking for someone on the phone and pretend to try to find them outside if the alarms go off, say you were just looking for someone".

The tactics being shared on TikTok came as The Times revealed a new agreement between Britain's biggest retailers and the police on tackling shoplifting by organised criminal gangs.

Matt Vickers, deputy chairman of the Conservative Party and a former employee at Woolworths and Home Bargains, said: "It is completely unacceptable for online platforms like TikTok to allow content that is enabling and encouraging crime in this way. Many of the 'creators' behind these TikToks are misleading their audiences into believing that stealing from a big company has no repercussions. The loss of stock leads to a price hike on the shelves, leaving the everyday customer paying for the losses."

A TikTok spokesman said: "We have zero tolerance for content facilitating or encouraging criminal activities, including theft, as set out in our community guidelines and will remove this content if found."





Advice on how to steal from large companies is shared on social media

Dummies to combat thieves

The Co-op supermarket has introduced a range of dummy products and empty packaging to deter "bulk-theft" from organised crime gangs (Matt Dathan writes). The retailer recorded a 35 per cent increase in shoplifting in the first six months of this year, which it blamed on the proliferation of criminals who steal goods en masse by sweeping items into rucksacks, suitcases or even wheelie bins. The Co-op said that empty packaging or dummies would be used to advertise higher-value products, such as coffee, chocolate and laundry gel, in specific stores that are frequently targeted by shoplifters. Shoppers who want to buy these products will have to take the dummy or empty cases to the till, where they will be exchanged for the actual product.

Giving only 85% at work is key to not burning out

Tom Saunders

As business leaders try to find the balance between risk-taking and expertise, and between hard work and burnout, more are finding that the 85-15 rule is key to getting the best out of their employees.

A group of academics used artificial intelligence to determine the optimum level of difficulty for new learning in 2019. They found that the program they designed performed best at an 85 per cent level of difficulty.

Bob Wilson, one of the authors of the study and an associate professor of psychology and cognitive science at the University of Arizona, said: "At least in broad terms, if you really want to learn something and master something you have to be willing to challenge yourself and push yourself to the point where you are making some mistakes."

Through machine learning, Wilson was able to determine the perfect balance between risk-taking and existing expertise, though the idea that people need to be challenged to learn is not new. Psychologists in the early 20th century developed the idea of a "zone of proximal difficulty" as key to children's early development.

James Wise, a venture capitalist at Balderton, a fund that has backed more than 20 "unicorn" start-ups, and author of the forthcoming book *Start-Up Century*, said: "You have to be open to learning new things which haven't been tried before, and therefore taking risks, and you have to be open to failure because it's just impossible in that scenario to be 100 per cent perfect."

While the 85-15 rule is applicable to risk-taking, it is also increasingly cited as the appropriate amount of effort that employees should aim for to avoid the dangers of burnout and overexertion.

Tim Martin, the chairman and founder of JD Wetherspoon, said: "I think 85 per cent is about right because it's a marathon race. On the wall of our office, we've got a picture of Sisyphus, condemned by the gods to push a boulder uphill for ever.

"Running pubs is like that, you need to keep something in reserve since the task is incessant. Also, people get exhausted if they're hyped up to 100 per cent, which some managers think is optimal."

The actor Hugh Jackman has cited the 85-15 rule as something that he tries to live by in an interview with the American entrepreneur Tim Ferriss, explaining that professional sportsmen will often work at 85 per cent of their capacity to focus on their form and optimisation.

As employees increasingly prioritise their wellbeing over other considerations, the new rule is becoming an important consideration for companies, according to James Barrett, managing director at the recruitment business Michael Page.

"It's important for businesses to realise that employees are human and aren't always going to be operating at 100 per cent productivity," Barrett said. "Knowing that — and embracing it — will help you make sure that you don't lose your best employees to either burnout or a different job."

Hannah Pearsall, the head of wellbeing at Hays, a recruitment agency, agreed, saying: "The 85 per cent rule is essentially ensuring you have time in your workday to factor in breaks, time away from the screen and fresh air."

AI and plastic sheets at birth could save 2m lives, says Bill Gates

Tom Whipple Science Editor

Simple and cheap interventions ranging from gut bacteria supplements to help malnourished babies digest breast milk to AI-powered ultrasound could save two million lives in the developing world by 2030, Bill Gates said.

The philanthropist and former Microsoft boss said at the launch of a report that there were clear and easy wins in tackling infant and maternal mortality, where progress in reducing deaths has stalled in recent years. "One of the greatest miracles of human achievement is since the turn of the century that we got the under-five deaths [annually] from ten million down to five million," he said.

"A lot of people aren't aware of that. And it's not celebrated as much as it probably should be."

He said that much of that reduction had been achieved through a combination of measures including vaccines tackling pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria. Maternal mortality has also fallen significantly in the same period, but in the past eight years has remained unchanged.

The report, written with Melinda French Gates, his former wife, for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, identified seven ways to restart the progress. They include a post-partum haemorrhage kit containing a plastic sheet known as a drape that allows doctors and midwives to easily see if blood loss is reaching a dangerous level. In a trial in 200,000 women it cut bleeding and deaths by 60 per cent.

Other innovations were iron infusions during pregnancy, AI-enabled ultrasounds, which studies have shown are comparable to trained professionals in spotting risky births, and using the antibiotic azithromycin during labour to cut sepsis by a third. The latter intervention could also help in the West, Gates said. A quarter of maternal deaths in the US are from sepsis.

One of the innovations he said he was most excited by related to the microbiome, or gut ecosystem, of babies. Research on the stools of healthy babies found that the microbiome had implications for malnourished children. Treatment allowed them to benefit from getting not only more milk but also the right bacteria to digest it.

Some of the work in implementing the mother and baby interventions will be done by the foundation, but much will need to be in collaboration with governments, including the UK.

Emigration for a third of young medics

Eleanor Hayward Health Correspondent

One in three medical students plan to move abroad after they qualify as doctors, according to a survey.

More than 10,000 students at 44 medical schools were asked about their career intentions. Thirty-two per cent said they wanted to move abroad, and of those 61 per cent aimed to emigrate after completing the two-year NHS foundation training programme. Six per cent said they would leave immediately after graduating, and 32 per cent planned to emigrate after foundation year one in hospitals.

Nearly half said they were planning to go to Australia. New Zealand, the US and Canada were also popular.

Medical degrees are subsidised by the government, but there is no obligation for doctors to work for the NHS.

The study, published in BMJ Open, involved 10,486 people — about one in four of the total number of medical students. Respondents were aged 22, on average, and completed the survey between January and March.

Tomas Ferreira, from the University of Cambridge, said: "The findings emphasise the urgency of addressing the factors driving doctors from the NHS. Steps could include improving work-life balance, increasing salaries, [and] addressing the growing competition for specialty training posts."

Rishi Sunak has promised to double medical school places, which are capped at about 7,500 places a year. A health department spokesman said: "Doctors who started training this year will receive a 10.3 per cent pay increase, with the average junior doctor set to get 8.8 per cent. We are focused on improving culture, leadership, and wellbeing."

ANNIE LEIBOVITZ/VOGUE



Green goddess The actress Kate Winslet talks about the challenges of her new film, Lee, in the October edition of Vogue

Disposable vape ban is considered

William Mata

Disposable vapes could be banned as part of government plans to stop children getting addicted to the devices, it was reported last night.

Having warned about the danger of young people being lured by brightly packaged e-cigarettes on shop counters, the Department of Health is looking at proposals that could be announced as early as next week, according to The Daily Telegraph.

Sales of e-cigarettes to under-18s are banned, but data suggests 11.6 per cent of 11 to 17-year-olds in the UK have tried vaping. There have been reports of addicted children being unable to make it through a lesson without vaping.

A health department spokesman said: "We are concerned about the rise in youth vaping and the environmental impacts of disposable vapes. That is why we launched a call for evidence, to identify opportunities to reduce the number of children accessing and using vaping products — and explore where the government can go further. We will set out our response in due course."

The department is said to be lining up a consultation that could pave the way to follow Australia's lead by banning all vaping without a prescription as proof that a tobacco smoker is trying to quit with the help of e-cigarettes.

Rishi Sunak has expressed worry about the prevalence of single-use vapes, which can be placed alongside sweets in corner shops and are available in a mix of flavours. The prime minister, who has two daughters, told *This Morning* on ITV in May: "It looks like [vapes] are targeted at kids, which is ridiculous. I don't want my kids to be seduced by any of these things."

Stay young at heart with a hobby

Kaya Burgess Science Reporter

Having active hobbies in later life leaves people happier and healthier, a study has found.

Scientists from University College London and universities in Japan investigated five studies which asked people about how often they engaged in some kind of pastime — from sport, gardening and charity work to chess, sudoku and reading books. A total of 93,263 people aged over 65 from 16 countries, including more than 4,000 from England, took part.

The studies also asked participants how healthy and happy they felt and to rate their general "life satisfaction".

Some 78.1 per cent of over-65s in England said they had some form of hobby, ranking towards the lower end of the league table. Denmark came out on top with 96 per cent having a hobby and Italy sat at the bottom at 51 per cent.

The study, published in the journal Nature Medicine, said: "Analysis of the findings revealed that having a hobby was associated with fewer depressive symptoms, better self-reported health, more happiness and higher life satisfaction, with life satisfaction most consistently related to hobbies."

It noted that the association "did not vary by gender or retirement status".

The study added: "Hobbies could contribute to older adults' life satisfaction through many mechanisms including feeling in control of their minds and bodies, finding a purpose in life and feeling competent."

Some of the studies analysed asked simply whether participants had any hobbies, while others specifically asked if and how often participants engaged in activities including charity work, training courses, sports or social clubs, or playing chess, among other things.

The study found: "The association of hobbies with life satisfaction is particularly promising given that it was seen not only in healthier respondents, but also in respondents such as those in the USA, where a very high proportion were living with long-standing mental or physical health conditions."

The researchers said their findings provided evidence to support schemes where doctors prescribed physical and social activities as part of combatting physical and mental health issues, noting: "Public health strategies such as social prescribing schemes including in the UK, USA, Japan and parts of Europe have focused on building hobby engagement into healthcare."

It said that these programmes could "help to address existing individual and societal barriers to engagement" and can "strengthen the associations between hobby and health outcomes".

Sophie Wickham, from the Department of Public Health, Policy and Systems at the University of Liverpool, who was not involved in the study, said: "Benefits include support in the socio-emotional development that occurs within childhood, stress relief in adulthood, and maintenance of cognition in later life." She added that a decade of austerity policies was "likely to have restricted access to hobby engagement for some groups in society".

What counts?

Researchers used different definitions of hobbies, but many included both active and sedentary activities in their questionnaires, including:

- Playing chess or card games
- Joining a sports or social club
- Doing sudokus or crosswords
- Gardening
- Taking part in arts and crafts
- Volunteering for a charity
- Taking part in political or community groups
- Reading books or newspapers
- Attending training or other educational courses

Hobbies are key to a happy and healthy later life, leading article, page 27



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Dawn French: Recreating puddle stunt left me in agony

Laurence Sleator

It is one of the most memorable scenes in *The Vicar of Dibley*. As Geraldine Granger walks hand in hand with her new partner she playfully jumps in a puddle and ends up fully submerged.

But Dawn French, who played the lead character for over a decade, has revealed that an attempt to recreate the moment left her walking with a cane and in constant pain for years.

French, 65, said that she was appearing as a guest host on *The Paul O'Grady Show* in 2009 when producers asked her to re-enact the scene to end the programme. Describing it as the "last time I had two functioning legs", she said she foolishly agreed to the "catastrophically misguided" idea.

Speaking at her one-woman show in Exeter last week, French said: "They constructed a 10ft-high hill out of scaffolding covered in AstroTurf. The idea was that there was a long enough drop for me to disappear into.

"Then some bright spark had the idea of having a shallow silicon membrane containing two inches of water on top so that, as I jumped through, the water would splash up and look like a deep puddle."

She added: "But what was I falling on to? The answer is absolutely nothing. Except for 10ft below there were two very thin crash mats in a film studio with a flat concrete floor. Any fool would know this was a disaster in the making. Any fool but me.

"The producers took me to show me and see if I was all right with it. And I replied: 'Of course I'm all right with it, I'm British.'"

She fell 10ft and landed on the crash mats. "One leg twisted very awkwardly underneath me and I landed very heavily. I heard the worst twanging noise you could ever imagine.

"I knew I was in trouble but I completed the sketch. I clearly felt like I'd rather die than admit weakness."

French said she found speaking about the incident quite emotional, as she showed the audience a picture of her about to complete the stunt: "This is the last time that my body is actually intact. This is the last time I had two functioning legs," she said.

The ramifications of the stunt were huge, she added. "The producers were asking if I was all right but I said I was fine. I drove five hours home to Cornwall trying to convince myself everything was all right but it wasn't."

She said the incident caused her such pain that she ended up walking with a cane and was forced to see a specialist who normally dealt with serious sporting injuries.

"He said I was going to need a knee replacement in the future. He said he'd inject me in the knee with a steroid and I could only have three of these injections.

"The first was like a miracle but it wore off. For the next 18 months I was writing a book at home so I just dealt with the pain. The next job was in panto at the Palladium, a lot of dancing and jumping.

"So I had the second injection. That worked a dream but it wore off and I was back to hobbling for another year and a bit."

Eventually the pain was so bad that French thought she required surgery. The surgeon told her that she was actually allowed up to three injections a year, which has helped reduce the pain.

French is travelling across the UK with her tour, *Dawn French Is a Huge Twat*, which runs until November.



Dawn French first carried out the stunt on The Vicar of Dibley in 1999

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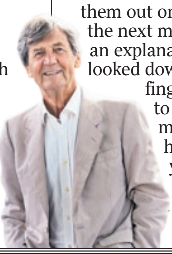
Rockers are party animals

They come from three political parties and three countries but MP4, Westminster's ageing boy band, have played in harmony for 20 years. The parliamentary rock group, formed of Kevin Brennan (Lab, guitar), Pete Wishart (SNP, keyboards), Sir Greg Knight (C, drums) and Ian Cawsey (Lab, bass and vocals), are to mark their anniversary with a gig in Speaker's House, limited to a crowd of 100. "It's a hot ticket," Brennan tells *The House*. MP4 have raised more than £1 million for charities, including a cover of *You Can't Always Get What You Want* in aid of their murdered colleague Jo Cox's foundation. They faced what Brennan calls an "existential crisis" when their vocalist lost his seat in 2010 but stayed together when Cawsey pointed out that the Police kept going despite none of them being real policemen. Plus he owned the speakers, he added, so they had to let him stay.

After writing new takes on James Bond and Jeeves and Wooster, Sebastian Faulks says he was approached to do a Raymond Chandler reboot, but decided, like Sean Connery refusing a third Ricard, that you can have too much pastiche. "My mother-in-law had a great phrase when her kids were growing up," Faulks tells Radio Times. "'Once, funny; twice, silly; three times, a smack.'"

SLAM DUNK MELVYN

In Our Time, Melvyn Bragg's Radio 4 series on the history of ideas, returns this week with an episode on Einstein, the 999th since it began 25 years ago. Bragg, right, joined the BBC as a trainee in 1961 and a colleague who shared his office was quick to recognise a talent. Wilfred De'Ath, a producer who died in 2020, wrote in 2017 that he noticed that whenever Bragg threw a piece of crumpled paper across the room, it always landed in the wastepaper bin. "I achieved this about 50 per cent of the time," De'Ath said. "I knew then that Melvyn would be a great man and I a relative failure."



IMPERIOUS HEAD PORTER

The Old War Office is about to reopen as a hotel. I wonder if it will still have the snootiest doormen in Westminster. In 1948, Bill Slim arrived for his first day in a new job, wearing a black overcoat and homburg, and was asked what his business was by the frock-coated head porter, whose topper had a gold band, with the air of someone who intended to send the hero of Burma round to the back entrance. "I'm the new chief of the imperial general staff," Slim protested. A look of "amazed incredulity", he wrote, passed over the porter's face, reflecting his doubt that the empire would be safe in such a scruffy personage.

Liz Truss is writing a memoir of her time as prime minister, both months of it, called Ten Years to Save the West. *Since her tenure was famously shorter than the lifespan of a lettuce maybe it should instead be called* Turning Over a New Leaf.

CONCIERGE OF DISTINCTION

After Saturday's item on bedbugs, the philanthropist Sir David Verey emailed to say his grandparents were blighted by fleas when staying in a dodgy hotel in Corsica in 1926. Unable to sleep, his grandmother caught some of the critters in a matchbox and tipped them out on the concierge's desk the next morning, demanding an explanation. Unflustered, he looked down and with his little finger moved some fleas to the right. "These, madam, I recognise," he conceded. "Those, you must have brought with you."

PATRICK KIDD



GUY CORBISHLEY/ALAMY



Stilted The French circus group Gratte Ciel performed on 32ft poles for the Greenwich+Docklands festival in south London

Half of oil spills hit safe zones for protected species

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

More than half of the oil unintentionally spilt in British waters over the past decade was in protected areas designed to safeguard rare and threatened fish, whales and other wildlife.

Projects operated by BP, Shell and Perenco, which was responsible for the recent Dorset oil leak, were among those that spilt 509 tonnes of oil over the period. Mapping shows 273 tonnes, or 54 per cent, occurred in marine protected areas (MPAs), which are meant to be refuges for under-pressure marine life.

The analysis of government spill data comes as the Tories and Labour continue to clash over the future of UK oil and gas production. Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, has vowed to block future licences to meet the nation's net zero goal, whereas Rishi Sunak has promised to "max out" reserves.

The new research was undertaken by Unearthed, Greenpeace's investigative arm. It found there were 551 spills from fields entirely or partly inside MPAs between January 2013 and March this year. Five of the incidents were significant enough to be designated "larger scale" spills, with the biggest one in an MPA off Shetland in 2020.

Altera's Petrojarl Foinaven vessel released about 238 tonnes of diesel in waters home to giant sponges nicknamed "cheesy-bottoms". The company, which said it disclosed all its spills online, is a contractor for the energy group's Equinor's controversial new Rosebank oil and gasfield.

Shell emerged as the company behind the highest number of spills over the period, with 106 leaks releasing five tonnes of oil into areas partially or wholly within MPAs. The Leman field, north of Great Yarmouth, run by Shell and Perenco, also recorded 67 oil releases, the highest number of accidental spills from one project within a protected area.

Marine protected areas are a crucial part of safeguarding biodiversity in the UK's seas and for the government's progress on achieving a UN goal of 30 per cent of oceans being protected by 2030.

Most spills in the past ten years were minor, at less than a tonne, and small in the context of the UK producing up to 45 million tonnes of oil a year. But their frequency raises questions about the impact of ministers' renewed push to extract more oil and gas.

Government analysis has insisted the hundred-plus schemes in the new licensing round will not "significantly hinder" the conservation goals of the MPAs. However, it also confirmed one in three of the licences were at least partly within one of the protected areas.

Fiona Nicholls, Greenpeace UK Oceans Campaigner, said: "It's clear the fossil fuel industry cannot be trusted to look after our oceans, and yet the government is about to open up even more of our seas to oil and gas drilling."

Unearthed arrived at its figures by looking at company records of accidental spills, known as Petroleum Operations Notice 1, issued to a regulator within six hours of an incident. The team then compared spills with maps of the MPAs and shared the overlap with energy companies, removing any spills outside the protected areas.

Mark Wilson, operations director at Offshore Energies UK, which represents the sector, said: "The offshore energy industry recognises there is no room for complacency when it comes to unintentional releases to sea. The industry takes all such releases seriously, regardless of size or potential for harm and are focused on driving continuous improvement."

Shell said: "We take our environmental responsibilities seriously and have a range of controls to prevent spillages." Perenco said it had "a strong environment policy in place to ensure any environmental impact is minimised", and BP said it took "any unplanned environmental release seriously".

A spokesperson for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero said: "We monitor offshore pollution incidents closely and investigate all accidental releases reported to us."

Rivers may lose last line of defence, says National Trust

Clean it up
WATER CAMPAIGN

Adam Vaughan

The head of the National Trust and other green leaders have said that the planned scrapping of protection for rivers would amount to the "most significant unwinding of environmental law for decades".

Ministers face growing resistance to the recent decision by Michael Gove, the levelling up secretary, to scrap "nutrient neutrality" rules in an attempt to increase housebuilding. Opponents hope to defeat the government's amendment in the Lords tomorrow.

In a letter to The Times, Hilary McGrady, director-general of the National Trust, called the protections the "last legal line of defence for precious river habitats".

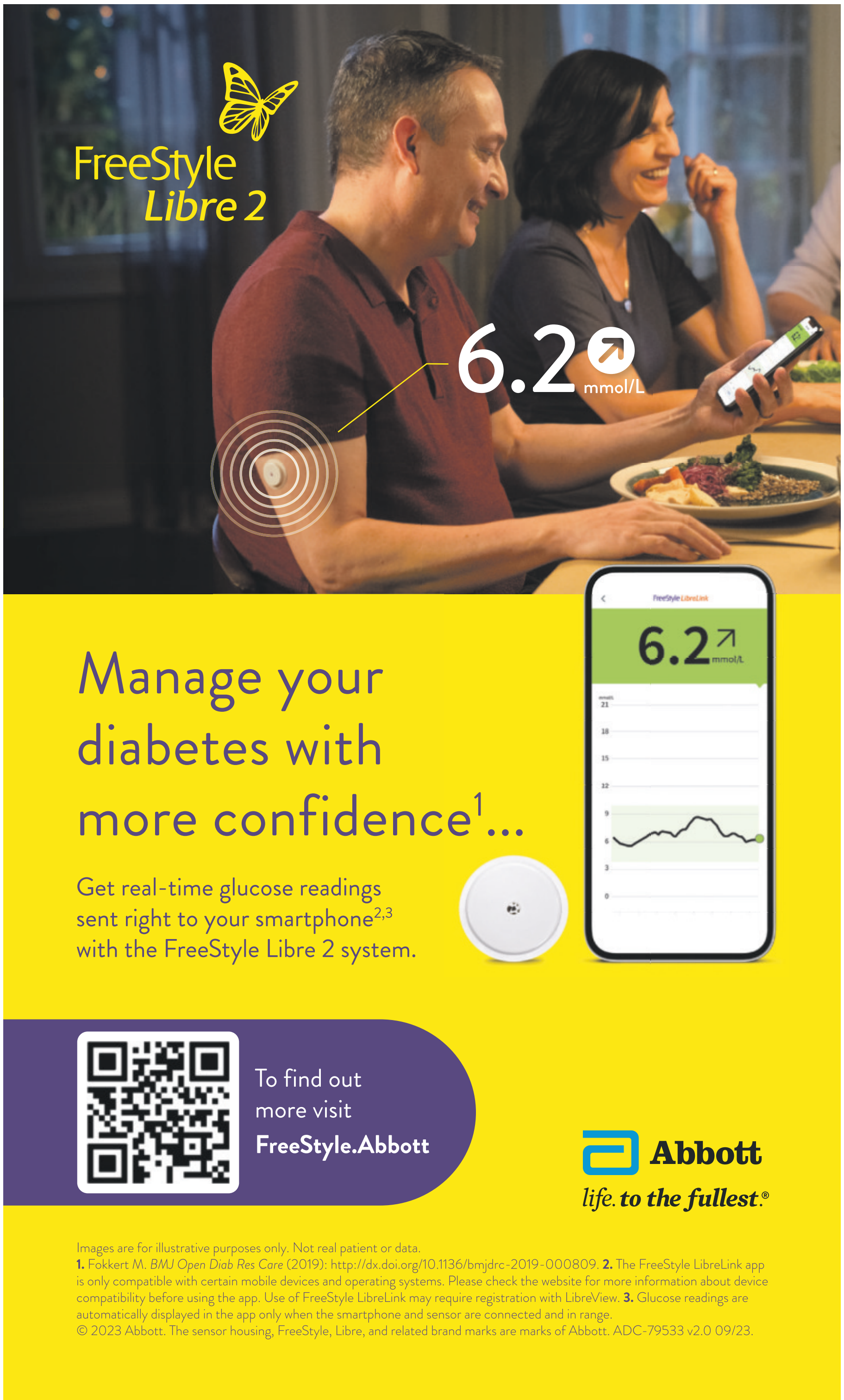
The rules have meant that developers in some sensitive areas need to reduce nutrient pollution into rivers before they can build there. That requirement will be dropped under Gove's plans. The government has tried to soften the blow by offering more funding for pollution reduction.

However, McGrady and the heads of the RSPB, WWF, Angling Trust and other groups said the move was a sop and not a substitute for the law. "The rules stop pollution from new developments near sensitive rivers. The weak, non-statutory measures proposed in exchange will fall short and more habitats will be harmed," they wrote.

The Times' Clean it Up campaign is calling for the government to keep the rules to limit pollution in rivers.

A government spokesperson said: "We've always been clear we will never compromise our high standards and we are fully committed to our ambitious and legally binding commitments on the environment."

Letters, page 26



Kors keeps it glam — but with comfort too

Anna Murphy
FASHION DIRECTOR

One could be forgiven for thinking that Michael Kors, the American designer spends his summers in the UK. A key piece in his collection for next season was an upscale version of a British wardrobe staple, what he referred to before the show as "the ultimate beach sweater". His was a chunky silk-and-cashmere V-neck hand-knit in a stunning hue he called "freesia". It was paired with some barely visible lace shorts that may prove less practical in Cornwall.

In fact, Kors summered in Capri, he went on, hence the flat leather sandals that the models were wearing. "When I saw women struggling to walk in heels on the cobbled streets I thought they had lost the pleasure of the place," he said.

That is quintessential Kors. He is all about glamour, but he is also about ease. His take on jeans and a T-shirt may be rendered in white lace, but they are still jeans and a T-shirt.



What he is also good at is a kind of timelessness that, if not entirely trend-agnostic — to wit, the dialled-up shoulders of his tailoring, as seen at plenty of other shows in New York this week — prioritises style over fashion. His draped Grecian goddess gowns or animal-print outerwear were prime examples of clothes that will last the course.



Michael Kors focused on style over fashion. That ethos attracted celebrities including Rita Ora and Vanessa Hudgens, far left

"Timelessness is the best way to be sustainable," he said.

One more point of difference, perhaps the most important one, is Kors's insistence on diversity of his models. His ethnically mixed line-up ranged in age from 18 to 45, and from a UK size 4 to 22. "It's more interesting for me to design for a broad range of people," he said. "I don't understand why the fashion industry keeps taking one step forward, then two steps back."

He was particularly exercised about the age question. "Let's face it, how many 18-year-olds can afford expensive clothes? To fail to represent adults on the catwalk is lunacy." Hear, hear. And yet that continues to be the modus operandi at many luxury brands.

Mother of bride killed by hotelier's car

David Brown, Mark Lister

A bride's mother was killed at her daughter's wedding when she was run over by the chief executive of the luxury hotel where it was being held, a court was told yesterday.

Judith Wadsworth, 66, was hit by a Range Rover while walking to the reception of the Coniston Hotel and Spa in the Yorkshire Dales.

Nicholas Bannister, 64, the hotel boss, drove on for 65ft before he heard sounds under his car and stopped, Bradford crown court was told.

Wadsworth had been collecting boxes from the hotel car park for the wedding of her daughter, Rebecca Blacker, on February 7, 2020, and was returning to the reception when the accident happened. She died of head and chest injuries.

Bannister is said to have told staff and wedding guests: "I didn't see her."

Michael Smith, for the prosecution, said the driver hit Wadsworth at between 9mph and 12mph. He had been carrying out errands.

The jury was shown CCTV pictures from the hotel lobby, on which Wadsworth can be seen bringing in boxes to the reception as Bannister chats to staff minutes before the fatal collision.



Judith Wadsworth, 66, died of head and chest injuries

"What's at the heart of this case is whether the defendant was driving with due care and attention as he drove around his hotel complex," Smith said.

"The party was in reception and, in the usual way people do, people were bringing things into reception and Judith Wadsworth was bringing items in for her daughter from the car park.

"It's the prosecution's case, the fact he didn't see a pedestrian who was crossing back into reception across a pedestrian walkway, the fact he didn't see her at all, even when he collided with her, was evidence that he was driving carelessly."

"The defence's case is that he was not careless, that what occurred was an unfortunate accident, that he took care to perform the correct manoeuvre."

Bannister turned right on the one-way turning loop and failed to see Wadsworth crossing the walkway from his left, the court was told.

Natasha Hobson-Shaw, a hotel employee, was the only witness. Smith said: "She saw Judith Wadsworth at or approaching the crossing, she saw Bannister drive, she saw Wadsworth cross the road, and she saw Bannister drive into her. There is no doubt Wadsworth did step into the roadway and no doubt Bannister drove into her and over her, which is what she saw.

"It was clear from their conversation when they stopped, the defendant had no clue what had happened."

Wadsworth, from Baildon, West Yorkshire, ran a chemicals business with her husband, Lee.

Bannister, of Bell Busk, near Skipton, North Yorkshire, denies driving without due care and attention.

The trial continues.



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Ban bully breed that attacked me, urges girl, 11

Andrew Ellson

A girl who was attacked in Birmingham by an American bully XL dog has said that she is now too frightened to leave her home.

Describing the attack to the BBC, Ana Paun, 11, said: "The dog stared at me and as I got closer it suddenly jumped up and bit my arm, it didn't take its gaze off me and continued staring while it was biting. It sort of locked on to my arm and wouldn't let go."

Ana, who needed hospital treatment, was saved by a passer-by who kicked the dog, forcing it to release its grip.

She said she was grateful to those who had stepped in to help her but that the dog's owner should have been more responsible. She added: "I think they should be banned, all those bulldogs should be banned."

Video of the attack on Ana was shared on social media. It showed the dog also attacking the man who came to her aid, before attacking another man at a petrol station.

The home secretary, Suella Braverman, said over the weekend that she was considering banning the breed, although responsibility for dog legislation lies with the Department for the Environment, not with the Home Office. Speaking on LBC, Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, said there was a "strong case for a ban".

More than two in five dog attacks this year have been by American bulldogs. The breed has also been responsible for three quarters of deaths, according to crowd-sourced data.

Analysis of media reports and social media posts about attacks, including dog-on-dog attacks, shows that the American bully XL is the most dangerous breed, accounting for 20 per cent of incidents. American bully-mixed breeds account for another 18 per cent, and the American bulldog accounts for another 4 per cent.

In the past two years, the number of dog attacks has increased after a surge in ownership during the pandemic. The number of deaths has also risen. Between 2001 and 2021 there were an average of three deaths a year, but last year ten people died, four of whom were children. So far this year there have been five deaths.

Bully Watch, a campaign group set up to "provide an evidence-based approach" to dog attacks, said that 352 of the 852 attacks it had recorded this year were by American bullies and that the breed was responsible for 11 of the 15 deaths since the start of 2022.

More than 9,000 people needed hospital treatment after a dog attack last year, a rate of 15 cases for every 100,000 of the population, double the rate in 2005.

The American bully originated in the US in the 1980s as a result of breeding between American pitbull terriers and American, English and old English bulldogs. They are not recognised by the Kennel Club so no one knows exactly how many there are in the UK, but experts believe there are more than 50,000.

The breed is under growing scrutiny because of recent high-profile attacks. In 2021, a ten-year-old boy from Caerphilly was killed when a bully XL savaged him.

Bully Watch said its analysis suggested that American bullies were 270 times more deadly than the rest of the dog population. The group added that its figures were supported by records held by police and councils.

It made freedom of information requests to find out the breeds seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act. This showed that this year, nearly a third of the dogs taken by the Metropolitan Police were American bullies, triple the number of the next most common breed. Before the pandemic, the force seized hardly any American bullies at all.

Some vets are also reporting that bully XLs are responsible for the majority of dog-on-dog attacks. Yesterday, Andrè Brenn, a vet in Liverpool, tweeted: "Out of the last ten dog attacks I've had to deal with at work, nine were attacked by an XL bully." He added: "We can blame the owners, but a vicious pom [pomeranian] won't do a fraction of the damage."

American bullies are not only attacking other dogs. This year, two out-of-control bully XLs savaged a flock of sheep near Wrexham, killing 22 and injuring 48 before the farmer shot them.

Bully Watch's figures call into question claims by the RSPCA and others that it was wrong to label breeds as dangerous and that instead it is their owners that are the problem.

One of the founders of Bully Watch, who wished to remain anonymous because "organised criminal gangs are involved in breeding", said he supported a ban. "These bullies have high prey drive and difficulty handling arousal so we know they are ticking time bombs."

Bully Watch has also conducted research into breeders. It found that 94 per cent featured dogs with cropped ears on their websites or social media accounts. Cropping ears is illegal under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The research also found that of the 909 breeders selling American bullies online, only six were council-licensed.

Attacks by breed 2023

Breed	Attacks
American bully XL	166
American bully type/mix	150
Staffordshire bull terrier	76
German shepherd type	63
American bulldog	36
Mastiff type	28
Akita	24
Husky	23
Rottweiler	20
Labrador	17

Source: Bully Watch


The dog went for two men after it attacked Ana Paun



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Widow poured urine onto patio of perfumer's £5 million home

Tom Saunders

As an expert in the perfume industry, Anastasia de Brauwere Brozler was quick to notice a strange smell coming from the basement garden of her £5 million Chelsea home.

Yet even with her sensitive nose it took her months to discover that the source of the "disgusting odour" was human urine, poured on to the grounds of her grade II listed house by a neighbour as often as three times a day.

De Brauwere Brozler, 57, eventually discovered the source of the foul smell by watching CCTV from her residents' association, which showed Janine





Janine Mackinlay, left, is not allowed to contact Anastasia de Brauwere Brozler

Mackinlay, 81, pouring her urine over the railings from a plastic jug.

Mackinlay was convicted of causing criminal damage to the property of de Brauwere Brozler and her husband, Alain, in west London and was ordered to pay £2,922 for repairs and £646 in costs. She was also convicted of harassment and given a 12-month restraining order forbidding her from contacting them.

The couple went to some lengths to uncover the source of the smell. Fearing a sewage leak, they hired a gas expert who confirmed that the smell was urine. "Every time you opened the door this pungent smell of urine would enter the house and we could not open our window. There is also a ventilator that is permanently open that drew in the smell," de Brauwere Brozler told City of London magistrates' court.

After the gas expert confirmed the smell's origin, de Brauwere Brozler's husband nearly caught his neighbour in the act after hearing liquid splash on to the patio and the neighbour's door slam. Once they saw the CCTV and discovered the culprit they confronted Mackinlay, who told them to "go to hell" and "back to their own country".

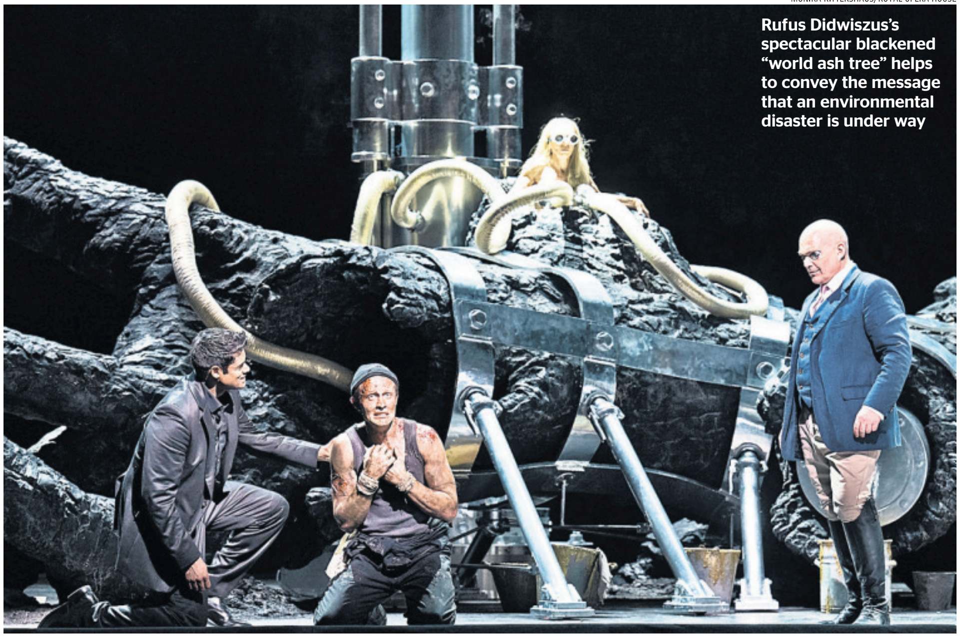
De Brauwere Brozler, who was born in Austria, runs a company called Creative Perfumers London and has worked for several perfume houses and a "coterie of international clients from princes to ballerinas, actors and politicians". She told the court: "I have a trained nose. I am a perfumer that works from home and I know I'm foreign and that is a big problem for our neighbour. She is verbally abusive to me."

Mackinlay did not deny throwing urine out of her door but told the court that it was not aimed at her neighbour's property and she did not intend to cause any harassment. "I have an arthritic knee and a collapsed vertebra and I cannot always get upstairs or downstairs to the toilet," she said.

Holding up the plastic jug, she told the court: "This is the weapon of mass destruction. I wee in it and I dispose of it. I'm afraid to say I throw it out the front door. There is no malice and I have never damaged anyone's property. It's not very ladylike, I understand that."

Mackinlay, a widow who earns £7,000 a month from letting properties, was supported in court by her son and daughter. Despite admitting the act, she described the damage claims as "laughable". However, Jeffrey Manton, the chairman of the bench, told the court: "This has been deeply distressing to the people living next door."

MONIKA RITTERSHAUS/ROYAL OPERA HOUSE



Rufus Didwiszus's spectacular blackened "world ash tree" helps to convey the message that an environmental disaster is under way

World goes to ruin with wit and verve

Opera Richard Morrison

Das Rheingold
Royal Opera House
★★★★☆

Wagner's Ring ends with the destruction of the world. However, the world is clearly well wrecked even before we hear the first note of the first opera in the Royal Opera's new cycle. Across a bare stage an old woman, entirely naked, slowly walks in total silence. She halts, buries her head in her hands in despair, then slowly revolves, as if recalling the entire catastrophe about to unfold.

Thus begins Barrie Kosky's enthralling staging of *Das Rheingold*. The woman is Erda, the all-knowing Earth goddess. Usually she appears only briefly in Rheingold to warn Wotan that his actions will destroy the gods and everything else.

Here, however, she is ever present, albeit mostly mute, except when given a voice offstage by Wiebke Lehmkuhl). It's an extraordinary performance by the writer and model Rose Knox-Peebles, 82 this year.

This Earth goddess witnesses, in effect, her own annihilation. As spectacularly designed by Rufus Didwiszus, the "world ash tree" is already a blackened, petrified stump.

Its roots are then despoiled by the industrial pipes and smoke-belching machinery of Alberich's subterranean factory. Around it swarm workers with hideously malformed heads. Kosky denies conceiving this Ring simply as an ecological wake-up call, yet his Rheingold evokes an environmental disaster well under way.

It also evokes much else. The gods, including Wotan — sung with superb, suave power by Christopher Maltman — are costumed like the sort of Bavarian aristocrats who have a longing for the good old 1930s. Polo sticks are much in evidence. Loge is portrayed by the mercurial Sean Panikkar as a frenetic, Jim Carrey-like showman, hamming it up in a sardonic spotlight for his send-up of romantic love.

As with all Kosky's best productions, a serious underlying intent doesn't preclude jolting wit. The butt of most of that is Christopher Purves's brilliantly thuggish Alberich, who is lewdly humiliated by the Rhinemaidens (this isn't a show for those squeamish about genitalia), then loses not just the ring to Wotan but the finger it's on as well.

Quibbles? There's not a drop of the Rhine on show, even metaphorically. And at the end a shower of glittering confetti doesn't really evoke Valhalla so much as make one wonder why Wotan needed all that gold to pay for it.

No reservations, however, about its musical qualities. There isn't a weak voice among the cast (though Marina Prudenskaya overdoes the scoops as Wotan's exasperated wife, Fricka). And Antonio Pappano conducts a magnificent orchestral performance that perfectly balances the baleful and brassy with the delicate and detailed. It's a show that does what all good Rheingolds do: leave you impatient for the next episode.

To September 29, roh.org.uk

T STUDENTS

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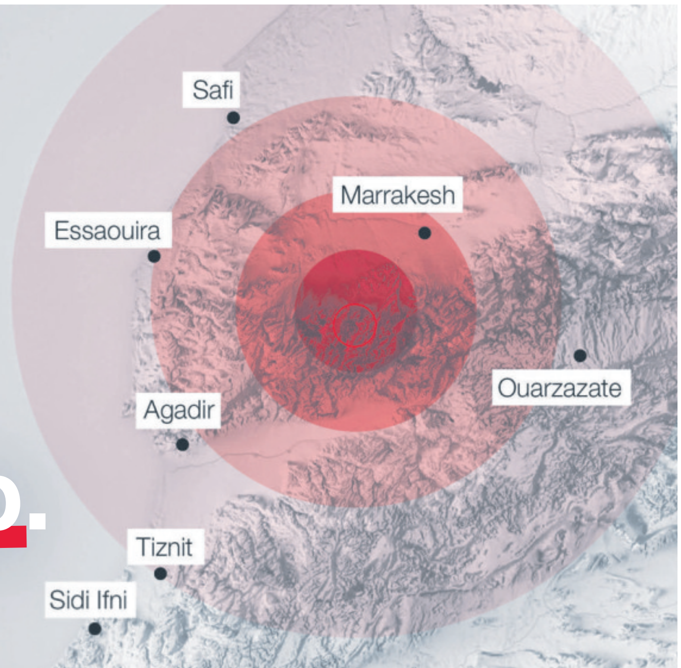


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British Red Cross

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Elon Musk's hold over Ukraine is terrifying
Hugo Rifkind
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Comment

It's time to unpick the triple lock on pensions

The system is both unsustainable and unfair in its present form but it will take cross-party co-operation to change it

William Hague



Six years ago I wrote an article suggesting a lower rate of tax for people under 30 years of age. My reasoning was that twentysomethings face a far more difficult financial outlook than we baby boomers did at their age — they contend with high rents and student loan payments while earlier generations were able to buy a home more easily and benefited from decades of house price inflation.

I worked out that if we older taxpayers paid an extra 1p in the pound on our taxes, under-thirties could have a 10p cut in their income and capital gains taxes, encouraging home ownership and entrepreneurship.

While this was a slightly mischievous suggestion to draw attention to the growing issue of intergenerational fairness, my former colleagues in government were sufficiently intrigued to test the idea on groups of voters. And the answer was very clear: voters hated it. More specifically, those over 30 years old hated it, which is the vast majority.

Fair enough; I didn't pursue that idea any further, but the issue of fairness between generations is only intensifying. It is earnestly discussed at conferences without anyone knowing what to do about it. Older people will, not surprisingly, fight their corner pretty robustly. And what is more, they vote.

It is with some trepidation, therefore, that I suggest what to do about the "triple lock", an issue understandably treated by serving politicians as akin to a very fierce sleeping dog that hates anyone to tread on its paws. They tiptoe around it, with "no plans" to touch those paws. But since I am not a serving politician, I can explain that the triple lock — the commitment to increase the state pension by the annual growth in average earnings, or prices, or 2.5 per cent, whichever is higher — is ultimately unsustainable. Somehow the main political parties have to give themselves, and each other, the space to amend it.

To be clear, I am not arguing that the triple lock should be abandoned this minute, or even in the next couple of years, or that the state pension should ever be increased by less than inflation. People paid their national insurance, they worked all their lives and they are entitled to a pension that keeps its value. But the triple lock does much more than that. This morning the latest earnings data will be released. If, as expected, average earnings in the UK are rising by about 8 per cent a year, then next year's pension rise will be 8 per cent — more than inflation which is about 7 per cent. Isn't that reasonable, you might think: pensions keeping up with rising wages?

Young should not have to pay for a runaway train in spending

In any one year, it is indeed reasonable. But the arithmetic of a triple lock is not universally understood, even, dare I say, among MPs. If you increase a number each year by the highest of three measures, and which measure is highest varies from year to year, you will steadily increase that number by more — perhaps considerably more — than all of the three measures. Paul Johnson, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), explained it well in a simplified example: "If prices rise 20 per cent this year and nothing next year, while earnings rise nothing this year and 20 per cent next, each will rise 20 per cent in total while the pension will rise by 40 per cent."

This is why the state pension will, by next year, have gone up by 11 per cent more than average earnings as well as 12 per cent more than inflation since 2010. Rather than growing by whichever is highest, it's growing by more than anything that can pay for it — wages or prices, or taxes, or the size of the economy. Again, there has been a reasonable case for this. Pensions were arguably too low and pensioner poverty much more widespread 20 years ago, but the increase is not something that can go on for ever, without very large tax rises or big reductions in benefits for families of working age.

This brings us back to fairness between generations. Younger people face house prices that are now nine times average earnings, compared with an affordable four times when I was in my twenties. It is inescapable that the upfront costs of energy transition will fall on their generation over the next 20 years. So will the cost of much higher defence spending in a more dangerous world. To have an entire generation struggling to develop a stake in the economy is socially and politically dangerous. They should not be asked to pay for a runaway train in spending that the triple lock would become.

The IFS estimate is that the triple lock will cost between £5 billion and £45 billion extra, per year, on top of inflation, by 2050. Over 50 years, the Office for Budget Responsibility says it could add up to nearly £1 trillion. Our entire GDP is just over £2 trillion. A runaway train is a fair analogy because we don't know where it will end up, or at what speed; it's nearly going too fast already for the train drivers to slow it down, but if they don't it will end in disaster.

GETTY IMAGES



A 1938 protest: political parties learnt long ago to respect the "grey vote"

The train drivers understand this. Asked on the way back from India, Rishi Sunak reiterated that the triple lock was government policy but declined to speculate about his election manifesto. The Labour Party is in a similar position. Neither can afford to commit electoral suicide by being alone in suggesting that some change is needed, even though that is obvious. Sometimes in politics you have to help each other a bit.

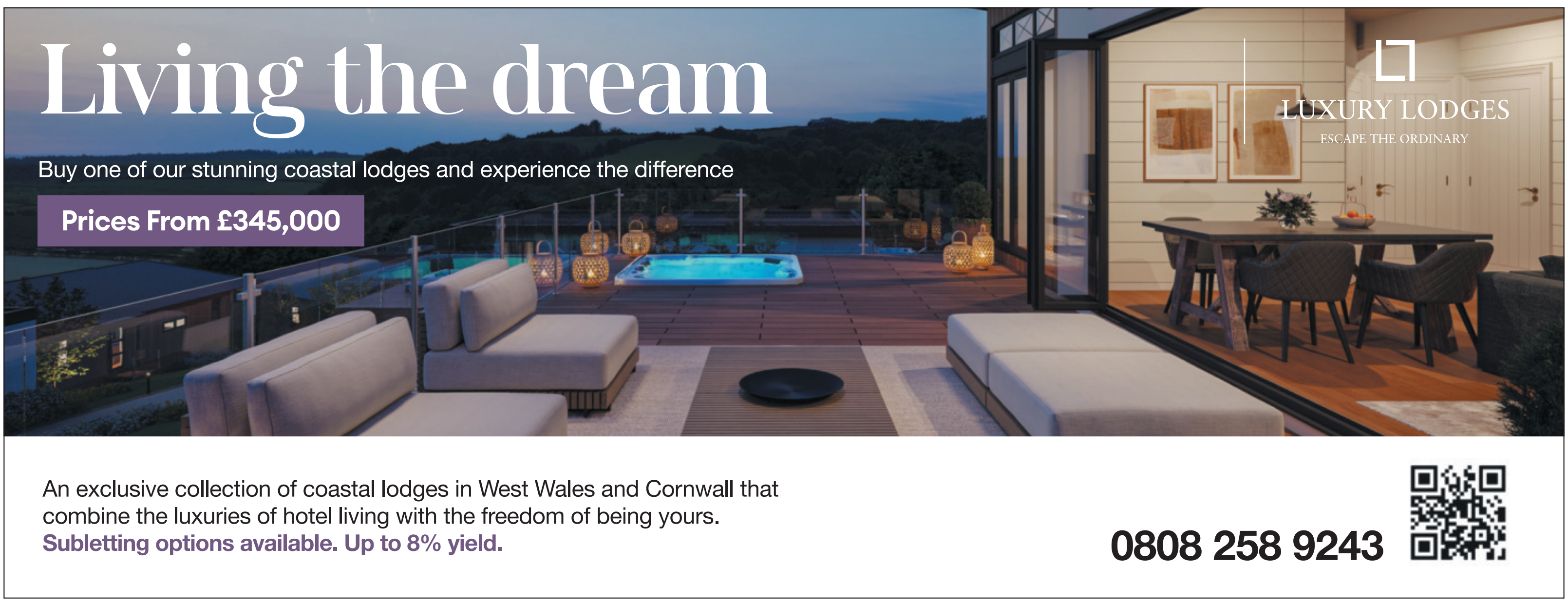
In 1995 I was the pensions minister who took through parliament the equalisation of pension ages, giving 15 years' notice that the women's pension age would rise in slow stages between 2010 and 2020. It was a huge cut in future spending but essential to sustain the whole system. Opposite me for Labour was Donald Dewar, a brilliant debater. Over many weeks of arguments, he asked me hundreds of questions, but with a twinkle in his eye. It was clear that Labour would quietly accept this huge change. We both knew that it had to happen and that doing it over a long period across parties was the only way.

What we did in the 1990s offers clues on how to solve this

What we did in the 1990s offers clues to how to approach the triple lock. Possible solutions include giving several years' notice of a change, after which pensions would still be protected by rising with prices, or an average of earnings and prices. At minimum, if the parties conclude they have to promise more years of the triple lock, they can commit themselves to review it in the next parliament.

Although the parties will never agree a policy on this together, they can each decide to give the other some room for manoeuvre. Everyone on a runaway train has a common interest in letting someone fix the brakes.

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Debased politics is in dire need of good people

Theresa May had integrity but even she became PM for want of anyone better for the job

Melanie Phillips



@MELANIELATEST

The official portrait of Theresa May by the British painter Saied Dai is a remarkable work of art. With a military-style overcoat draped round her shoulders and with the orange lapels of her jacket turned up, she strikes a Napoleonic pose. This conveys power and dignity. It also suggests a war leader, which is what she was in effect during the Brexit crisis — even though the 1812 retreat from Moscow isn't perhaps the happiest allusion.

But her eyes reflect intense defensiveness and wariness. This is a woman who has been hurt. Her mouth, clamped tightly shut, turns down at the corners, suggesting both disapproval and obduracy. Yet she is also upright, statuesque and with an unflinching gaze suggesting principle and integrity.

She is thus portrayed as a highly complex character with a deep vulnerability. Dai himself said: "A good painting needs to be a revelation and also, paradoxically, an enigma." He has certainly succeeded triumphantly in this aim.

He also said, comparing May with her predecessor and successor, that she was "a far more decent and principled and honest person just trying to do their best against an impossible task". Aside from this dig at David Cameron and Boris Johnson, his point relates to precisely the argument being made by the former Tory cabinet minister Rory Stewart in promoting his new book, *Politics on the Edge*. The life of a politician, says Stewart, places an "almost unsustainable" strain on MPs, with some being pushed close to suicide. The reason, he states, is the innate impossibility of the role of MPs in pretending to know what they're doing. "The truth is," he says, "this is a country of 70 million people and politicians don't really know what's going on. And yet we pretend to the public that we do."

Stewart describes MPs as having no clue what they're even voting on. Government, he says, is insane; joined-up thinking is impossible, since the high turnover of ministers means that policies are junked before they even have a chance to work. "You couldn't — wouldn't — run a fish and chip shop the way we run government," he says.

Many of his criticisms hit home (although surely not all MPs are that clueless) but his remedies are less persuasive. On Sky's *Sunday Morning* show, Stewart said that Britain needed to look at the American system, in which government departmental heads are appointed by the president and which therefore had "genuine professionals as cabinet ministers".

The US system, however, can hardly be viewed as a beacon of democracy, given its sustained attempt to lever out one president on the spurious basis of a political smear job by his opponents, while refusing to investigate plausible claims against another one. Stewart's point, however, is a technocratic one. Parliamentary democracy, he's saying, gets in the way of running things properly. His solutions include devolving government decisions to citizens' assemblies. Yet these are a recipe for Balkanisation and chaos that representative democracy is designed to obviate.

Again following the American example, he suggests that the Commons should shrink from 650 MPs "to about 100", focused like the US Senate on national and international issues. The public, he says, should be lobbying not their MP but a powerful local mayor about bread-and-butter issues. "The MP thing encourages the centralisation of power."

So what follows from this? Is parliamentary democracy actually rubbish? Or are the wrong people being attracted to politics because good people are being repelled?

The latter certainly seems true. The challenges of politics today are immense but the quality of MPs has fallen. Their failure to put the public interest before their own survival has helped create decades of bad decisions, which are finally coming home to roost.

Democracy itself sets the trap. Elected politicians are under pressure to deliver what their electors want, which is often contradictory. So MPs don't tell the public unpalatable truths and pretend instead they can deliver bread and circuses. Moreover, they were once able to rely on the official class to keep the show on the road. No longer: decades of de-education and appointments made not on merit but by ticking the boxes of identity politics have caused the wheels to come off the administrative bus.

So, good people are choosing not to go into politics. It attracts instead people with no hinterland, no maturity or experience of life outside the political bubble, and whose decisions are accordingly driven by inexperience and panic. The result is that prime ministers are chosen from a shrunken field. May became prime minister for want of anyone else who seemed better at that time. She had some admirable qualities, but her character flaws got in the way of the job she had to do.

Now voters are being presented with a choice between "rotten" Tories and "untrustworthy" Labour — with the perception that they're all as useless as each other.

Is this a failure of the British system, as Stewart suggests, or a malaise across the western world? It's both; and it's chicken and egg. Is it repairable? Yes, but it requires statesmanship based on wisdom, vision and courage.

Now that's a contemporary portrait that might defeat even Saied Dai.



Theresa May, by Saied Dai

Thunderer

This is a MeToo moment for those working in surgery

Tamzin Cuming

Some reports are left to gather dust on a shelf but this one cannot be. *Breaking the Silence*, based on findings from a peer-reviewed research paper, presents some of the most appalling facts ever to come out about the conditions for many people working within the field of surgery in the UK.

Our research, which surveyed more than 1,400 staff working in surgery, found that nearly 30 per cent of women (and nearly 7 per cent of men) were sexually assaulted by colleagues, and there were even instances of rape. This situation represents a MeToo moment for surgery.

Now the real work has to start to bring about a profound change in the culture of healthcare. Our research reveals an environment where sexual assault, harassment and rape can occur among staff working in surgery but allows it to be ignored because the system protects those carrying it out rather than those affected. We need urgent change in the oversight of how healthcare investigates itself. We are calling for a national implementation panel to be set up to oversee action on our recommendations, and for incidents of sexual misconduct to be independently investigated.

Doctors-in-training report being informally warned about future bosses whose unacceptable behaviour is well known but who have never been stopped. Survey responses describe attempts to report sexual misconduct being dismissed or resulting in perfunctory in-house investigations.

We call for widespread training for all, which would enable silent witnesses to speak up and help to create a culture of respect. Interestingly, the research paper showed there were significantly more women than men witnessing sexual harassment and assault, terming this men and women "living different realities". This gap in perception implies there is work to do with education, so that sexual misconduct incidents are seen for what they are and not assumed to be consensual.

No one should need to call for a code of conduct that says, in essence, "please do not molest your work colleagues or students" and yet this is one of the actions our report recommends. The report is measured, its recommendations achievable, but this shouldn't disguise the anger and frustration felt by many in our profession.

This is no time for hand-wringing. Action is needed. Although our data is from the field of surgery and specific to staff, it has implications for all healthcare. Whatever the healthcare role of a perpetrator, their actions mean they simply should not be working with patients and vulnerable people.

Tamzin Cuming chairs the Women in Surgery Forum at the Royal College of Surgeons of England

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Giles Coren Notebook

How to make tea cool: first stop calling it a cuppa

According to The Sunday Times, the new chief executive of Lipton plans to rejuvenate the ailing tea brand by making "PG Tips as cool as coffee".

At first, I was baffled. What could possibly be cooler than the hot beverage favoured to excess by both talking chimps AND the late Tony Benn? Are they not the respective Fonzies of equatorial Africa and British politics? But it seems that while annual coffee sales in the UK have surged to nearly 90 million kg over the past 20 years, tea sales have declined to barely 80 million, a sad switch-around which Nathalie Roos, the Dior-wearing French CEO in question, puts down to a question of "coolness".

So, how to make tea as cool as coffee. Well, first, you have to change the phrase "do you fancy a cuppa?" to something cool like, "wanna grab a kworfee?" which is what cool people say to make their hot morning drink sound like something Cagney and Lacey might swallow before nailing a perp. I suggest "wanna smash a coupla brews?"

Then you need to start serving tea in the form of giant frothy drinks with a billion "milk" options, that don't actually taste of tea, so that the kind of obese baby who lives on that stuff can order a "giant caramel almond milk brewskaccino" and waddle off to the station, sucking on it like an unweaned hippo. You must also persuade them that the snack to be consumed with this colossal bucket of fat and sugar is not a simple biscuit but a 900-calorie muffin.

That done, it's all about giving tea the sexy whiff of addiction that coffee has so long enjoyed, by perpetuating a culture of dependence around it and making "I can't function till I've had my tea" into a chortlesome TikTok meme. You need to persuade people to pretend to be all trembly until they've had one, to claim to get withdrawal headaches, and to get all macho about how many they have and how strong it is, while dropping the association with simply needing to wee a lot.



Down with the kids

Speaking of trying to be cool, I notice Rishi Sunak used the word "grandkids" at a pre-G20 meeting in Delhi on Saturday. It's ugly enough calling children "kids" (for they are not baby goats, dear), but "grandkids" is a thing that literally nobody says. Especially not billionaire Wykehamists. It's a thing you have to make a special effort to say because you think it sounds like what the common people whose votes you need might call their revolting chavvy grandspawn. It's a surprising lapse, because in every other way Mr Sunak is so rough-hewn and authentic.

My patch

Some of you expressed surprise last week that when I took myself to A&E to get a cricket injury stitched up, they had a record of my previous visits. "Was it a private A&E?" you asked suspiciously.

Well, of course it was! Why on earth would I want to spend four hours of my Sunday afternoon (which is the NHS target waiting time — "target", mind) sitting in a big room full of sick people, with bog roll stuffed into my gaping wound, diverting time and resources from those who might need them more than me, when I can afford to pay to be seen immediately elsewhere?

I always go to the same private casualty unit in north London, where the charge for triage and initial treatment is £120 (with specialists on hand across the wider hospital should a more major intervention be required). So: £120 or four hours' waiting? I don't know about you, but I charge my time out professionally at considerably more than £30 an hour, so it's a mathematical no-brainer.

Now, in my case the locum patched me up and referred me to a specialist hand surgeon down the corridor. At which point I had the option to pay a senior consultant a few hundred quid to do the work privately, or head to the Royal Free and wait all night for one of his tired, overworked students to do it for nothing. It's called "choice", and it makes the world go round.



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Elon Musk's hold over Ukraine is terrifying

Country's reliance on the Starlink internet system for its war effort gives tech billionaire the power of life and death

Hugo Rifkind



@HUGORIFKIND

Elon Musk likes to get involved. You'll remember, probably, the tiny, mad submarine that the world's richest man built when those teenage boys got stuck in a Thai cave in 2018, only for one of the rescue divers to say it was a PR stunt and useless, and that Musk could "stick his submarine where it hurts". In response, Musk called him "pedo guy" and the pair went to the libel courts. Dignified? No.

When Russia invaded Ukraine last year his help was far more welcome. After early attacks brought down Ukraine's internet the deputy prime minister, Mykhailo Fedorov, used Twitter — which Musk did not yet own — to plead for access to Starlink, Musk's satellite internet service. This was smart psychology, because Musk lives on Twitter and craves its users' approval, and within a day he was proudly announcing that this would, indeed, be done.

Jauntily, Ukraine's official Twitter account tweeted, "thanx, appreciate it" in response. And thus the online world's very own superhero had shown that even in the face of murderous tyranny, the memes would not be stopped.

Ukraine, though, did not just want to tweet cat videos. Beaming from space, via satellites run by Musk's SpaceX, Starlink goes where cables cannot. Without it, the Ukrainian military would not have been able to operate many of the drones with which it has inflicted such damage on invading Russian forces.

Eventually, as confirmed in a new book by the biographer Walter Isaacson, Musk would go on to refuse the use of the service when Ukraine sought to target Russian boats in the Crimean port of Sevastopol. Submarine drones, writes Isaacson, lost connectivity and "washed ashore harmlessly".

This is thorny. On the one hand, we might think it horrifying that Musk could do this, no matter the preferences of Kyiv or even the Pentagon. On the other, it's down to him that Ukraine even had Starlink to start with. "If I had agreed to their request," he has said since, "then SpaceX would be explicitly complicit in a major act of war and conflict escalation."

In a sense, his dilemma was similar to that faced by all Ukrainian partners, about when or if to provide tanks or F-16 fighter jets, balancing support for Ukraine with a terror of whatever Russia might do in response. Those other partners, though, are countries. This one is an erratic billionaire who called one of his kids "X Æ A-12".

Writing in The New Yorker, Ronan Farrow pointed out that Tesla, Musk's car company, is heavily reliant on Chinese goodwill. Doubtless Beijing's support for President Putin weighs heavily on his mind. It also seems likely, though, that he was simply frightened about the call he had to make. "How am I in this war?" he asked Isaacson. "Starlink was not meant to be involved in wars. It was so people can watch Netflix and chill and get online for school."

> An erratic magnate who called one of his kids 'X Æ A-12'

At best, this is naive. Musk is a creature of early Silicon Valley and tech libertarianism goes to his bones. Whether he intellectualises it or not, his instincts stem from the same school of thought that led Peter Thiel to suggest founding extraterritorial cities on oil rigs, or Julian Assange to found Wikileaks. Or, if you prefer, that led to bitcoin. Starlink is explicitly designed to be unstoppable by governments on the ground, which is precisely why Russia can't stop it. This makes it a brilliant weapon of war. Yet it is also why, when it's yours, the buck stops with you.

Having initially provided Starlink to Ukraine at his own expense, Musk now has a contract with the Pentagon. It's all very well saying that liberal powers, and especially the US, should have their own networks instead. Yet if Musk were a country, he'd be the 50th richest country on Earth. And no country, not even the US, has the GDP of New Zealand going spare to match him.

Worse still, Starlink doesn't really have any competitors. Jeff Bezos of Amazon has plans but has not yet launched a single satellite. Musk already has more than 4,000. His closest functioning rival is a company called OneWeb, with a few hundred. Ironically, OneWeb ran into difficulties last year because it had been working with the Russian space agency. Some future launches, instead, are likely to rely on Musk's own SpaceX.

As one Pentagon defence chief told Farrow: "Even though Musk is not technically a diplomat or statesman, I felt it was important to treat him as such." Obviously, this is not the first time that a wealthy individual has had a role in a war. Yet when world wars were fought with the help of industrialists, at least other industrialists were available.

One thinks of the role of oligarchs in Russia itself, and particularly of the Wagner group, through which private capital and hazy lines of responsibility were exploited to advance national interests. Existing at the whim of tyranny, though, an uppity oligarch always runs the risk of, say, mysteriously blowing up in mid-air. Musk is not in this situation. Or at least, not unless he gets on one of his own rockets.

For years now, some have raised the alarm at the immense power wielded by tech firms via social media. Until recently many would have thought this the core concern about Musk himself, after his wild and capricious takeover of Twitter. Compared with Starlink, though, such worries feel flippant. Given the future challenges of artificial intelligence — a technology that Musk himself worries may pose an existential risk to humanity — tech power is only going to grow. Who knows what future Oppenheimers that could spawn?

One might think "rein it in" but China isn't reining it in, and reining in Musk would have precluded Ukraine getting Starlink in the first place. Even he, though, seems frankly terrified that huge decisions about life, death and geopolitical conflict have ended up in his woefully unqualified hands. We should be, too.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to
letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

River quality at risk

Sir, Tomorrow the House of Lords will vote on government proposals to overturn nutrient neutrality laws, the last legal line of defence for precious river habitats. Nutrient neutrality rules are part of the habitats regulations, the UK's strongest nature protections. Scrapping them would be the worst unwinding of environmental law for decades.

The rules stop pollution from new developments near sensitive rivers. The weak, non-statutory measures proposed in exchange will fall short and more habitats will be harmed.

The existing rules do not stop housebuilding, they require housebuilders to mitigate impacts. Where there is a short-term shortage of mitigation credits, the government could speed up development without weakening environmental law. Unfortunately, the government did not consult before bringing forward proposals in the dying days of the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill.

We urge peers to vote against these damaging proposals, which are contrary to government promises to restore rivers and stop the decline of nature by 2030.

Hilary McGrady, director-general, National Trust; **Mark Lloyd**, CEO, Rivers Trust; **Darren Moorcroft**, CEO, Woodland Trust; **Craig Bennett**, CEO, Wildlife Trusts; **Katie-Jo Luxton**, executive director, global conservation, RSPB; **Toni Pearce**, director of advocacy, WWF-UK; **Jamie Cook**, CEO, Angling Trust; **Richard Benwell**, CEO, Wildlife & Countryside Link

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Second medical opinion 'not always wise'

Sir, Correspondents (Sep 8, 9 & 11) and your columnist Janice Turner ("Drop NHS deference and shout the wards down", Sep 9) have described how their relatives were badly treated in hospital by clinical and nursing staff. Their concerns were made worse because they were ignored, disparaged or not consulted. Key information was not shared and such information as was given was not always accurate. All this was my experience too in the 12 days leading up to my husband's death in hospital earlier this year.

However, I do not share the plea for a "Martha's rule". There is already a plethora of legislation, regulations, protocols and guidance and nothing is to be gained by adding to that. The fundamental failing is the culture of disrespect. Until that changes, patients will remain at risk and carers will continue to despair.

Janet Ruane
Leamington Spa

Sir, There is an opposite side to this argument. I recall a patient in her nineties admitted under my care with a condition that required a gentle treatment appropriate for her age. The relatives insisted with some force that we treat the patient with a stronger treatment more suited to a younger patient. Reluctantly I agreed. The patient died as a result of complications caused by the "stronger" treatment. In retrospect I should have sought a second opinion for myself.

Peter Davies
Re'td NHS consultant, West Kirby

Sir, Although Bill Cunliffe makes a good case for the provision of second opinion, he overlooks the difficulty that the second opinion may not be the correct one. When I, in a different profession, am asked to provide such an opinion, I sometimes discourage the client as they will have no way of knowing which is correct, and should resist assuming it is the one most favourable to them. Then a third opinion is necessary, and even that may not resolve things.

Richard Colbey
Barrister, Five Pump Court Chambers, Temple, London EC4

Sir, Janice Turner's lacerating piece and several letters were humbling to read for senior NHS staff of any discipline, and rightly so. "Martha's rule" seems an excellent idea. However, Cath Manchester (letter, Sep 9) mentioned consultants not working weekends. As the wife of one who has worked the medical rota from house officer to consultant grade over 30 years, I beg to differ. He doesn't work every weekend but he regularly puts in a 12-day stretch without a day off. Although he isn't doing clinics when he is in at the weekend he is on the wards for hours on end. He will be mostly reviewing new admissions but also keeping an eye on the most unwell admissions from the previous week. He can't do it every weekend without thinning out the cover during the week (and thereby cancelling routine outpatient work). The truly seven-day hospital would require a huge financial investment and a 40 per cent increase in staff of all departments, not just doctors.

Dr Rachel Turner
GP; Overton, Hants

Sir, Unfortunately the patient's rights have been subsumed by the apparent needs of the NHS monolith that the clinicians are working for, and also the demands of the tick boxes that need to be filled in. All clinicians need to be reminded that their paramount duty is to be their patient's advocate.

Dr J Andrew Nicolson FRCGP
Saffron Walden

Company penalties

Sir, Francis Norton asks the point of fining Network Rail, a taxpayer-owned company, £6.7 million over the Stonehaven fatal railway accident, saying that prosecution is, in effect, "a complete waste of time and (our) money" (letter, Sep 11; news, Sep 9).

The same could be said of fines imposed on NHS trusts convicted of health and safety offences. And, although water companies are private companies, a similar argument can be made about environmental offences and convictions; the shareholders of these companies have little influence in their management.

What is needed is a more robust policy of prosecuting the directors and senior managers responsible for these failings. For serious offences, the penalty should be a term of imprisonment and disqualification from acting as a director. The prospect of such disqualification and the clang of the prison gates would surely be more effective in changing behaviour than a financial penalty for the company, however large the fine.

David Lamming
Boxford, Suffolk

'Traffic light' team

Sir, The Rugby World Cup has barely started so it is so frustrating to see such inconsistencies in officiating (sport, Sep 9 & 11), and even more so to see one of the South African coaching team flashing a light from their box seemingly telling the team whether to opt for a kick at goal or to go for the corner; surely a world-class team should be able to decide that on the pitch? The practice is legal and the Boks say they are using it to pass on information about the extent of players' injuries, as the din in the stadium impedes communication, but it raises suspicions nonetheless.

Ebyth Morton
Edinburgh

Votes for prisoners

Sir, Prisoners should certainly be able to vote (letters, Sep 11). To deny them that is churlish. How else can they have a say in the society into which they will be reintegrated? They should be placed on the electoral register to which they were entitled on the date of their conviction, not that of the prison where they are housed, which could wrongly distort the voting outcome.

John Hogan
Ret'd police officer, Ripley, Surrey

Physician associate

Sir, The introduction of physician associates needs to be encouraged and accelerated ("NHS revolt looms over 'physician associates'", Sep 11). My wife, a GP of more than 20 years' experience, still trains for and carries out far too many procedures that staff with much less training could do. Physician associates willingly do these simpler tasks and are a boon given the shortage of GPs. Other professions long ago passed on the more straightforward tasks to staff with less training.

Far too often the medical establishment has sought to resist positive change, such as when the Blair government sought to bring in polyclinics. We should keep physician associates and immediately move on to introducing AI for illness prediction and diagnosis.

Colin Treleven
Ludgvan, Cornwall

SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR GIRLS

FROM THE TIMES SEPTEMBER 12, 1923

Fashions for young girls are charming this autumn, though they are designed on more or less rigid lines to suit immaturity. What girls wear at school is largely a matter of the headmistress's decision, but most headmistresses, while insisting on simplicity, allow bright, cheerful colours and girls are happier when prettily dressed. While a tunic or tunic frock is worn in class, and in most schools is of navy — though one school has almond green with beige collars and cuffs — it is when books are put away that a girl's own choice, in which she is given a certain amount of liberty, is seen. In one famous school, it is true, no competition in frocks is allowed, and the "djibbah" style is rigidly maintained, no girl being allowed anything but regulation dresses. But this is exceptional, and at most high schools the tonic effect of clothes is recognized. That there is some regard for parents' pockets is shown by the order given by a high school recently where regulation frocks were worn in the evening. The headmistress chose two models, one in velvet and the other in soft woollen crepoline, which were to cost three and a half guineas, and the girls were free to choose their own colours provided they kept to the standard model. Some schools allow their pupils to wear the same frocks in the evening that they would at home, and for girls of 17 or 18 adult fashions are adapted. The sleeveless fashion is not allowed, but there is a pleasant little "Prudence" model in white crepe de Chine with "bouffant" hips and bodice buttoned down the front. For the dancing class many girls like a hand-veined white voile, while at some schools the class is taken in gymnasium costume, and at one well-known school a Grecian-looking frock in beige crepe de Chine made on an elastic with a round neck and short sleeves is regulation. White frocks of crepe de Chine or georgette are nearly always worn at school concerts. The school coat is nearly always uniform, and can be most becoming. One school has a horizon blue coat, worn with a white pull-on hat. But for other than uniform coats fur trimming is usual, and opossum and wallaby are the school girl's favourites this year. Girls are as keen on no belts as their elders, and this autumn their hand-woven tweed coats are made without them.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Brought to heel

Sir, Further to your beautifully crafted photo essay "Time heels all: the cobblers that served Queen Victoria" (Sep 11), historically cobblers repaired old shoes with old leather; the makers of new shoes with new leather are cordwainers. The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers, the City livery company that once regulated the shoe trade in London, received their ordinances from the Crown in 1272. These rules made a clear distinction between the trades of cobbler and cordwainer and were established to prevent unscrupulous tradesmen from mending old shoes with new leather and passing them off as new ones.

William Lobb, the managing director of John Lobb, is a freeman of the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers and, along with our other members who work in the footwear industry, upholds the livery company's tradition of making and designing the finest footwear with the best quality materials.

Judith Millidge
Master, Worshipful Company of Cordwainers

Bond's spymaster

Sir, In your interesting report on the transformation of the Old War Office into a luxury hotel and flats, (report, Sep 11), you state that Ian Fleming based James Bond's spymaster, M, on Sir Mansfield Cumming, the founder of MI6/the Secret Intelligence Service. Not so: Cumming died in 1923, when Fleming was a teenager. The real model for M is probably Admiral John Godfrey, who was indeed Fleming's chief in Naval Intelligence early in the war.

Nigel Jones
Chichester

Priceless post

Sir, Further to the letters (Sep 8 & 9) and your leading article (Sep 11) on the deficiencies of the Royal Mail, I took a parcel to our local village store, which has a Post office counter. The postmistress asked the value of the contents and I said: "No value, it's a cardigan for a baby and I knitted it myself." She replied: "In that case I will write 'priceless' on the form." The parcel, posted in northeast Scotland, arrived in the south of England the next day and I was able to show the postmistress an emailed photo of my niece's baby wearing the cardigan. It is now known in the family as the "priceless cardigan" and I have great faith in the Royal Mail.

Gillian Grigor
Inchmarlo, Aberdeenshire

Ballooning anger

Sir, We livestock farmers have several names for a collection of hot air balloons (notebook, Sep 9; letters Sep 11). We use them a lot while collecting and calming stampeding animals, and they are all unrepeatable in a respectable newspaper.

Charlie Flindt
Hinton Ampner, Hants

Gone with the wind

Sir, I'm with Ann Treneman (notebook, Sep 9): I was initially troubled by wind turbines but now the sight of them has an effect similar to that of church spires — a feeling of wellbeing. Even, perhaps, of hope.

Lucy Johnson
Langport, Somerset

Daily Universal Register

Israel: The British foreign secretary, James Cleverly, delivers a speech in Israel
Switzerland: The WTO's Ralph Ossa presents a report on trade policy issues

Nature notes



The bold magenta flowers that had suddenly appeared in the churchyard looked, from a distance, like orchids, though of course it was the wrong time of year. They stood out among the browning September grass dotted with the white umbellifers of yarrow, and seemed very out of place. A succulent plant once classified as a sedum, orpine is native to Britain, though also occurs as a garden escapee. The persistence of colonies has earned it its common names of livelong, life-everlasting and live-forever, though harping Johnny and frog's-stomach are perhaps harder to parse.
MELISSA HARRISON

Birthdays today



Anthony Loyd, *pictured*, journalist, senior foreign correspondent for The Times, 57; **Bertie Ahern**, taoiseach (1997-2008), leader of Fianna Fáil (1994-2008), 72; **Maria Aitken**, actress, *A Fish Called Wanda* (1988), and theatre director, 78; **Alfie Allen**, actor, *SAS Rogue Heroes* (2022), 37; **Chris Breward**, director, National Museums Scotland, 58; **Darren Campbell**, sprint athlete, Olympic gold medallist (2004), 50; **Joshua Cheptegei**, long-distance runner, 5,000m and 10,000m world record holder (2020), Olympic gold medallist (2020, 5,000m), 27; **Lord (Andrew) Ericht**, senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 60; **Robert Gildea**, historian, professor of modern history, University of Oxford, 71; **David Goodhart**, founder (1995) of Prospect magazine, 67; **Linda Gray**, actress, *Dallas* (1978-91), 83; **Prof Sir Mel Greaves**, biologist, founding director, Centre for Evolution and Cancer, Institute of Cancer Research, 82; **Sir Wes Hall**, former West Indies cricketer and politician, 86; **Scott Hamilton**, saxophonist, 69; **Sir Gerald Howarth**, Conservative MP for Aldershot (1997-2017), 76; **Kim Hughes**, soldier, bomb disposal expert awarded the George Cross (2010), 44; **Jennifer Hudson**, singer and actress, *Respect* (2021), 42; **Lt-Gen Robert Magowan**, deputy chief of the Defence Staff (financial and military capability), 56; **Layla Moran**, Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, 41; **Sir Michael Moritz**, venture capitalist, Sequoia Capital, 69; **Adam Nicolson (Lord Carnock)**, writer, *Sissinghurst: an Unfinished History* (2008), 66; **Michael Ondaatje**, writer, *Warlight* (2018), 80; **Gerard Presencer**, jazz trumpeter, 51; **Kevin Sinfield**, rugby player, former Leeds Rhinos and England captain, defensive coach for the England national senior men's team, 43; **Jean-François van Boxmeer**, chairman, Vodafone Group, 62; **Rachel Ward**, actress, *Against All Odds* (1984), 66; **Pamela Warhurst**, co-founder, the Incredible Edible gardening initiative, 73; **Sir William Worsley**, chairman, Forestry Commission, 67; **Abdulqawi Yusuf**, president, International Court of Justice (2018-21), 75; **Hans Zimmer**, film composer, *Top Gun: Maverick* (2022), 66.

On this day

In **1953** the future 35th US president John F Kennedy married Jacqueline Bouvier.

The last word

"*I'll not listen to reason … Reason always means what someone else has got to say.*"
Elizabeth Gaskell, novelist, *Cranford* (1853)

Chinese Whispers

Britain is a priority target for Beijing's spies and influencers. This secret offensive must be countered with a register of those operating on behalf of foreign powers

The debate about whether China poses an acute threat to British interests or is a potential partner in the solution of global issues is not just a matter of friend-or-foe semantics. It sits at the very heart of our relationship with Beijing, complicating the acceptance of sensitive investment and swaddling in suspicion all areas of cooperation.

The only way forward — that much must have been clear to Rishi Sunak as the prime minister headed back from the G20 summit in New Delhi — is through transparency, vigilance and deterrence. It is not just a British dilemma. India watches China nervously as it flexes its muscles on the Himalayan borderlands. The United States has observed Chinese consular officials making bonfires of secret documents after being rumbled by the FBI. Italy is having second thoughts about aligning with China's Belt and Road initiative for fear of intrusion.

The arrest under the Official Secrets Act of a well-connected parliamentary researcher may not add up to the work of a Beijing master spy (the suspect and another man have been released on bail and have not been charged). But it does at least suggest a Chinese interest in monitoring and possibly disrupting the democratic process. However the case unfolds, there is plainly an urgent need to establish the full scope of Chinese interference in Britain. That should be a cross-government task. Access to the corridors of parliament needs to be tightened up. On Chinese issues this is particularly important since bodies such as the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) need to have the freedom to call in vulnerable dissidents and ensure they can testify without fear.

Beyond the realms of parliament, there has to be tighter scrutiny. A new report issued by the Policy Institute at King's College London argues in favour of "de-risking" Britain's higher education sector which has become dependent on high-paying Chinese students and donors. Too many British colleges, and British science in general, lean too heavily on China's financial input.

Parliament's intelligence and security committee recently warned that a broad range of Chinese agencies have been actively vacuuming up intellectual property and feeding it into the state-run economy. A similar heightened caution should extend beyond the parliamentary domain and the university quadrangles to include screening procedures for politically sensitive business deals.

A new National Security Act, passed this summer, makes it illegal to meddle in elections. It will be a criminal offence to work covertly for a foreign hostile power. But that does not cover all the necessary ground currently being exploited by the Chinese state or its proxies. One useful tool will be a Foreign Influence Registration scheme, which owes something to registers set up to counter Beijing's activities in Australia and Taiwan. It requires the registration of arrangements to exercise political influence "at the direction of a foreign power". The Australian and Taiwan versions are constructed explicitly with China in mind. The British model includes a special "enhanced tier" allowing the government to specify whatever power is considered to be a bad faith actor. It allows enough wriggle room for business contacts. Non-registration though is considered to be a criminal offence.

This should provide a screen of sorts and can offer some transparency but it is far from fool-proof. The Chinese spy agencies have found plenty of ways of covering their tracks and some of their influencers may not even be aware that they are acting on behalf of an intelligence service.

China holds some of the keys to the technological future; as such it should be invited to the London conference on AI this autumn. But the watchword holds: Beijing is becoming a national security risk and all our institutions and companies should be vigilant.

Slapp Down

The rich and powerful must not be allowed to use vexatious lawsuits to kill scrutiny

Justice in this country is supposed to be blind but which big law firm does not have a keen eye for a fee? And there can be a lot of money in Slapps.

Slapps, for the uninitiated, are "strategic lawsuits against public participation". These are actions, for libel, breach of privacy or some other concocted wrong, that are designed to silence journalists and other researchers delving into the lives of the rich and powerful. By threatening investigators, often of limited means, with ruinous costs if they proceed with their inquiries, Slapps deter legitimate scrutiny. They are legal abominations that should themselves be illegal.

Those wanting to frustrate a troublesome media investigation with a Slapp head for London. There they will find a culture welcoming to litigants from all parts of the globe, no matter how tenuous their connection with Britain. Shady people with sunny bank accounts will discover firms of solicitors only too willing to issue chilling threats to journalists on headed notepaper for a fat fee. That these "clients" often have no reputations to defend is irrelevant. Not for nothing has London earned the reputation of being the "town named Sue".

The government has long been promising action to end Slapps, a favoured tool of Russian oligarchs and sundry other scoundrels. Alex Chalk, the justice secretary, describes them as a "flagrant abuse of our legal system". But the wheels grind slowly. A limited curtailment of these vexatious lawsuits is contained in the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill which has almost completed its passage through parliament. But the clauses inserted into the bill are specific to economic crime and do not provide a universal defence. With the last King's Speech before the election due in early November, time is running out to insert a bill into the legislative programme to slap all Slapps down once and for all.

Mr Chalk and Lucy Frazer, the culture secretary, must push this issue in cabinet. Yesterday Ms Frazer presided over the first meeting of a taskforce composed of journalists, lawyers and campaigners charged with finding ways to kill off Slapps. This body is looking at non-legislative measures to combat them. But what is needed is an act, clear and uncompromising, formulating a definition of a Slapp and the penalties that should be levied against litigants who bring them and the firms of solicitors who aid and abet them. The one thing these firms understand is money, and that means heavy fines. Judges should be given the right to strike out claims before trial that are identified as Slapps and reimburse defendants' costs. The judge should then be authorised to fine the lawyers involved to a level that ensures they sustain a hefty loss on the action. This should be a formal sanction for abusing the legal process. It should not be categorised as a mere professional infringement with the levying of the penalty delegated to some cosy professional body.

The government has made all the right noises about Slapps and taken some action. But not enough. These bully boy tactics must end.

Slapps are a stain on the English legal system, posing a continuing threat to freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the rule of law. They demean this country, suggesting that not only its more cynical law firms but its courts are available for hire by gangsters seeking to conceal their crimes. Britain should be a haven for those who expose wrongdoing, not the wrongdoers.

Labours of Love

Hobbies, the pursuit of the inessential, are the key to a happier, healthier later life

As so often, George Orwell said it best. In *England Your England*, his matchless wartime essay on the soul of the nation, he wrote of an "English characteristic which is so much a part of us that we barely notice it … the addiction of hobbies and spare-time occupations". He went on: "We are a nation of flower-lovers, but also a nation of stamp-collectors, pigeon-fanciers, amateur carpenters, coupon-snippers, darts-players, crossword-puzzle fans."

Orwell was right, of course: to be English, indeed British, is to live among such happy amateurs. To his 1941 list we might today add armies of online gamers, padel players and geocachers. When in 2021 the Pew Research Center in Washington DC asked people the world over to list what gave their lives meaning and happiness, only Britons put "hobbies" in their top three answers. And, as we report today, those who indulge their pastimes into later life feel happier, healthier and at lower risk of depression.

No surprises there. Anyone who has observed the quiet contentment of the trainspotter or village cricketer will have worked out what scientists from University College London and universities in Japan gleaned from five studies which surveyed some 93,263 people aged over 65 in 16 countries — among them 4,000 from England — on their private passions. Namely that hobbies keep the mind and body active, and help those who might otherwise end up isolated forge new friendships.

Just ask Sir Rod Stewart, a devoted railway modeller at 78, and 83-year-old Lord Clarke of Nottingham, a renowned twitcher during his time as chancellor. Sadly, some 22 per cent of over-65s admit to having no pastime at all. This is a shame.

There are steam railways crying out for signalmen and astronomical societies in need of fresh pairs of eyes. All with new friends yet to be met.

World

Mine-clearers who keep coming back for more

Anthony Loyd meets the unsung heroes of the Ukrainian offensive



When he spoke about the most recent time he was blown up by an exploding shell, the sapper clutched his knees and rocked slowly back and forth. "Give me a minute," he said twice as he collected himself, his voice still slurred by concussion.

Three weeks earlier Artur, 25, with the 47th Mechanised Brigade, one of the vanguard units of the Ukrainian counteroffensive, had been sent on a night mission with ten men from a Skala Battalion storm unit to clear a Russian position at the edge of Robotyne. The obliterated village, whose subsequent capture has been described by Ukrainian officers as a key moment in the grinding campaign, straddles the first of Russia's three defence lines in southern Ukraine.

One other sapper was with him that night, his friend Serhii. They moved up in Bradley fighting vehicles as close to Robotyne as they could, through a lunar landscape of shredded trees, shell-churned soil, destroyed vehicles and dead men. No sooner had the Bradleys' ramps gone down and the storm group assault teams rushed the first houses than Russian artillery pounded their location and troops opened fire on them from concealed positions.

"It was like nothing I had heard before, you couldn't tell one shell explosion from another," Artur recalled, speaking at a farmhouse near Orikhiv where his 12-man team of sappers is based. "The houses began to disintegrate around us."

Despite the intensity of shellfire the two sappers kept checking for mines and booby traps in the first captured house, even as it was hit repeatedly. The assault troops began to fall dead around them.

One explosion buried Serhii in rubble. He was pulled from the debris and kept working. Then it happened again. Once more the sappers scrambled from the rubble and tried to do their job.

By that point four of the ten assault troops were dead.

Artur was blown out of the door by one exploding shell, and when he tried to stand up he was blown down by another. Serhii was hit in the throat and arm by shrapnel and died.

Artur was dragged back to a Bradley, semi-conscious, by the six survivors of the storm unit and driven to safety.

Still recovering from severe blast concussion and visibly dazed, Artur had been out of hospital for only a week when we met. Despite the imprint of Robotyne's horrors upon him and the way the shell blasts had slurred and slowed his speech, he was already back at work in the minefields.



Artur, at 25 the youngest sapper in his unit, has been rushed back into action despite visible evidence of concussion. He and Dyd, below, and the other sappers are hailed by regular troops as the "crazy guys" they owe their lives to

The other sappers in his team, mostly older men greyed by life and war, call him the student, as he is only 25 and baby-faced. But there was nothing naive in the young sapper's words — although he did lean forward at one point and remark: "I'm so excited to still be alive." The flash of youthful zest left his companions momentarily lost for words.

When the Ukrainian army's counteroffensive began in June the armoured brigades were hailed as the champions, intended to break through Russian lines and sweep aside the enemy with a speed that would cut the invading forces in southern Ukraine in half by autumn. They had been trained in Germany and equipped with Bradley fighting vehicles, as well as Leopard and Challenger 2 tanks.



But three months later, after heavy losses of armoured vehicles from Russian minefields and artillery barrages, and with the offensive reduced to an attritional grind that has penetrated barely eight miles in 14 weeks of fighting, the stars of the battle are not tank commanders but sappers like Artur.

These soldiers move no faster than they can walk with their British-supplied Vallon mine detectors. They are grubbing around on their knees with hand-held probes to clear lanes through minefields, often under fire, so that Ukrainian vehicles can pass to the next objective; or running in with storm units to clear positions of booby-traps, mid-action.

"We all wanted the battle to move faster," Dyd, 49, another 47th Brigade sapper, said. "But we had no idea how deep the minefields would be, how densely sown with mines. Everything is mined. The fields, the woods, the vehicle wrecks, the trenches: everything.



"So we have become the go-to soldiers of the battle, on call like pizza men. Got a messy minefield or booby-trapped trench? Get the sappers."

Battered by their own experiences trying to advance through Russian minefields, the Bradley crews and infantrymen of the 47th Brigade speak of the sappers with something approaching adulation.

One Bradley gunner, Morok, who had been a butcher before the war, described a recent attack on the Robotyne axis. His vehicle was immobilised by a mine, and then a UR-77 mine-clearing vehicle beside him was blown up by artillery, with two of its crew killed. Despite the ensuing fireball, four sappers escaped from the wreck and joined Morok and a group of infantrymen in rushing forward to attack a Russian trench.

"The sappers were crazy guys," Morok, 41, recalled. "They were running forward with us on foot, all our vehicles wrecked, hurling improvised grenades they had made out of energy bottle drinks and explosives into the Russian trenches. These days we can go nowhere without our sappers."

Yet just as sappers have become the angels of the offensive, mines remain the battle's demons, easily capable of bringing a Leopard tank or Challenger 2 to heel. A report published last week by the Royal United Services Institute (Rusi), a defence and security think tank, observed that the minefields throughout the Russian Surovikin line had been expanded beyond the usual depth of 120 metres to 500 metres.

The minefields comprise layers of Soviet-era TM-62 anti-tank mines, sometimes triple-stacked to maximise destructive power — a technique the sappers call "the hamburger" — and PMN anti-personnel mines mixed with newer-generation devices and booby-traps. Covered by Russian artillery, the mines have repeatedly halted Ukrainian assault operations all along the main axis of the counteroffensive south of Orikhiv.

Few analysts believe that the Ukrainian push will achieve a significant breakthrough before the arrival of autumn rains. President Zelensky warned on Saturday that the fight was losing pace, and most military observers predict that the offensive is unlikely to win back a significant amount of territory before restarting in the spring of next year.

"A major breakthrough at this stage is possible, but unlikely," Nick Reynolds, co-author of the Rusi report, said. "It would be optimistic to think it would happen now. The Russian military may be struggling, but they still seem to have access to a mass of reserves and firepower that would stand a good chance of plugging any gaps if there was a breakthrough, albeit at great cost."

Until that happens, it is the slow toil of sappers that is leading the offensive's pace.

Getting some rest in a sunlit farmyard as shellfire rumbled across the vista of fields and orchards, Artur and the other sappers described a lifestyle of unimaginable stress. They spoke of hurried mine clearance in the grey light of pre-dawn, of lying on their bellies to find the mines as shrapnel from exploding shells scythed the air about them, and of accompanying storm units to clear the last rings of anti-personnel mines during attacks on trenches.

"Our storm troops need paths through mines right up until the edge of Russian trenches," said Dyd. "Sometimes our storm guys get in and find the trenches themselves have been rigged to blow. We often clear mines, and then rush to the trenches and fight too."

Dyd spoke of an incident during a recent mission on the Robotyne axis, when a storm trooper panicked under shellfire and ran into a minefield and had a leg blown off. Dyd then had to clear a lane to the wounded man that was wide enough to allow two other soldiers to pull him out — while still being under fire.

"The stress level was unimaginable," he said.

The sappers spoke with candour of the tensions and fears related to their work. All agreed that they brooded more on fear after a mission than during it, but said they motivated themselves with the knowledge that the counteroffensive's outcome depended on their work.

"I am OK being back among the mines after that night," said Artur quietly, as sparrows chattered amid the crump of artillery. "But that night in Robotyne is the third time I have been badly concussed by shell blast and hospitalised. I am all right when I am working, and my mind is focused. It is between missions, when I have time to think, that the fear comes and my days are more difficult."

The young sapper paused and then added:"It is still very difficult to accept that though I believe in my work, I may not survive it."



Harris leads remembrance on anniversary of 9/11 attacks

Under overcast skies the families of those who lost loved ones mustered at the World Trade Center, and in Pennsylvania and Washington, to

Rescuers race to find survivors in Morocco
Page 30

King sends 'good wishes' to Kim before Putin talks
Page 32

ADAM GRAY/EPA; MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO; SELCUK ACAR/GETTY IMAGES; BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS







New York was at the centre of the 9/11 remembrance ceremonies, attended by Eric Adams, the mayor, and Kamala Harris, top, among others, and marked on the city's streets and in the stock exchange



mark the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 attacks (Will Pavia writes).

The names of the 2,977 victims of the 2001 attacks and the six killed in a bombing at the World Trade Center in 1993 were read out by relatives in a ceremony in New York attended by Kamala Harris, the vice-president.

The city's former mayor Rudy Giuliani, hailed at the time for his calm demeanour but now embroiled in various legal struggles, also attended the ceremony.

President Biden, in a break with custom, was elsewhere; travelling back from Vietnam. "I'll be going from here to Alaska to speak to several thousand of our troops," he said at a press conference with Pham Minh Chinh, Vietnam's prime minister.

Jill Biden laid a wreath at the Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, while Douglas Emhoff, the husband of Harris, attended a wreath-laying ceremony in the field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where Flight 93 crashed after passengers stormed the cabin of the hijacked plane.

In New York the reading of the names was punctuated by moments of silence timed to the minute that the hijacked planes struck the North and South Towers and the Pentagon, as well as for the crash of Flight 93 and the moment that each tower fell.

Andrea Treble, whose sister Gabriela Silvina Waisman was in the North Tower organising a breakfast event at a restaurant, was one of those chosen to read names at this year's ceremony.

"The phrase 'never forget' has become synonymous with the day," she said. "I say always remember, because that is what my family and families who have lost a loved one on 9/11 do on a daily basis."

Putin may never let me return home, says Russian rock star

Russia
Marc Bennetts

It was the eve of the war in Ukraine when Boris Grebenshchikov, Russia's most famous living rock star, performed for possibly the last time in his homeland.

"I felt like I was playing in Hamburg in 1939 or something," he told The Times. "The people were great, but there was this feeling in the air."

The morning after the concert in St Petersburg, President Putin ordered tanks into Ukraine. Grebenshchikov, 69, and his folk rock group, Aquarium, flew out of Russia that same day to Finland, where they had a concert lined up.

He has not been back to Russia since, where there are calls for an investigation into him over his opposition to the war and his "financial support for Ukraine". He is unsure that he will ever be able to return.

"I was asked what I think about this war. I told them what I think. And after that, I can't go there anymore," he said.

In June Moscow designated Grebenshchikov, who has lived in London for several years, a "foreign agent". Pro-Kremlin media have labelled him a traitor, and an MP with Putin's ruling party has called for him to be investigated after he described Russia's attacks against Ukrainian civilians as "fascism".

Grebenshchikov came to prominence in the 1980s, when Aquarium were at the forefront of the Soviet Union's underground rock scene. Such groups were kept under KGB surveillance, and it was not until Mikhail Gorbachev's liberal reforms took hold that they were allowed to release their music officially.

Grebenshchikov believes that the new crackdown by the Kremlin against dissident music is harsher than when he began performing in the Soviet era. Dozens of Russian musicians who have spoken out about the invasion of Ukraine have been forced to flee abroad or face arrest, as Moscow promotes "patriotic" rock and pop.

For many Russians, the move against Grebenshchikov is evidence that no one is safe from Kremlin repression: in Britain, the equivalent would be Downing Street classifying Sir Paul McCartney as an enemy of the people.

But Grebenshchikov, commonly referred to by his initials, BG, is unsurprised by the Kremlin's determination to crush any opposition to Putin or the war. "They are the heirs of [Joseph] Stalin. They never rejected the past," he said. "It was inevitable. Lenin gave orders to kill hundreds of thousands of people, and he lies in a mausoleum on Red Square. He is the most cherished possession of the Russian state. If a mass murderer like this is the most revered emblem of the past, then what can we expect?"

Grebenshchikov has organised a charity album for Ukraine called *Heal the Sky*, featuring new or previously unreleased songs by western rock stars including Jethro Tull, Marianne Faithfull, Marc Almond, the Undertones, and Dave Stewart of the Eurythmics. One of the prominent tracks is the haunting *Lament for Mariupol,* by Richard Thompson of Fairport Convention. All the proceeds will go to Ohmadyt, the largest children's hospital in Ukraine.

"A lot of people that I know from Ukraine have been writing that they feel forsaken. Because it's all high politics, it's the war, it's money. But I don't think that anybody thinks about the feelings of the people. They are scared and they don't understand why they are being bombed and shelled.

"A lot of these people are listening to music, so I thought it would be good if they could have a confirmation from the people whose music they love that they are not forgotten. The money is secondary."

The singer, who has a large fan base in Ukraine, has played in many of the towns and cities that were attacked by Putin's army, including the theatre in Mariupol where at least 300 people were killed last year by an airstrike.

"Every war is a tragedy. And this war, for me personally, is a double tragedy because I know every town, I know the buildings. I remember the theatres. How is it possible? The grandeur of this absurdity is mind blowing."

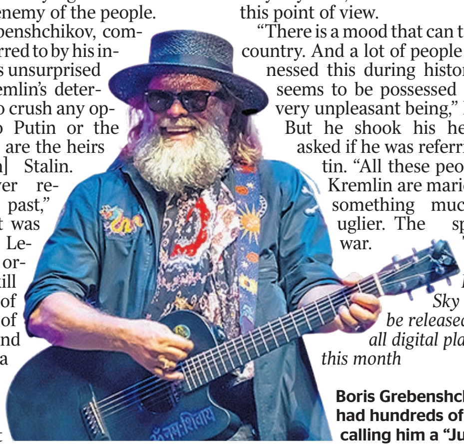
Ukraine banned the public performance of Russian-language music after the start of the war but it has made an exception for musicians who have spoken out about the invasion. But Grebenshchikov is also uncertain that he will be able to visit Ukraine again.

"I'm getting hundreds of letters from Russia calling me a Judas, saying 'You don't belong in Russia.' And the Ukrainians say, 'Every Russian should be killed, and you should be killed as well'. I understand why they feel like this. But I also understand it's not personal. They say you're Russian, so you're guilty. Well, let's just say that I understand why they say that, but I don't subscribe to this point of view.

"There is a mood that can take over a country. And a lot of people have witnessed this during history. Russia seems to be possessed now by a very unpleasant being," he said.

But he shook his head when asked if he was referring to Putin. "All these people in the Kremlin are marionettes of something much, much uglier. The spirit of war. The god of war."

Heal the Sky will be released on all digital platforms this month



Boris Grebenshchikov has had hundreds of letters calling him a "Judas"

‘Someone’s breathing in the rubble’

Rescuers race to find survivors in Imintala, writes Isambard Wilkinson



In the High Atlas mountains, the village of Imintala was known among trekkers for its walnut and cherry trees and its welcoming people.

It is now nothing more than a mass of devastated homes, some of which lie under a section of rock that fell from a cliff behind the village. Instead of its familiar fragrance of tajine dishes and almond blossom, the stench of dead bodies rises from the rubble.

The blows of sledgehammers and pickaxes echoed as rescuers raced to find the last survivors yesterday. Three days after the earthquake that hit the area, killing more than 2,600 people, the chances are slim.

Said Ben Idar sat in shock by the rubble. His four-year-old daughter Zainab and his grandmother died in the quake. “It is still a blank,” he said. “I cannot understand how everything has gone in a second.” His mother-in-law, Fatima Lbida, known as a force in the village, was crushed and killed when the hostel she ran for trekkers collapsed. A group of her daughters stood by, tears running down their cheeks.

Every so often a shout went up as another body was found and calls rose from the ruins for a blanket to wrap the corpse in. A young woman screamed in fury and grief when they dug out the body of her young son, her family unable to console her.

Imintala is just one of the many villages in the mountain range laid waste by the quake, and it lies near the epicentre in the region of al-Haouz, which has had 1,591 deaths so far, the most of any province. With much of the stricken zone in remote areas cut off by rock falls, the authorities have not given any estimates for the number of people missing.

International rescue teams reached the village this morning, including some of the 62 members of the UK International Search and Rescue Team who arrived in Morocco on Sunday. “We hit the front line at first light this morning,” said Jim Chaston, 48, the operation’s commander. “It’s almost a total collapse. The construction is challenging as it’s a combination of stone and reinforced concrete blocks. We’re using our dogs now to try to find any of those last survivors.”

As wailing began again as another body was found, he added: “Locals believe there is a family of three under the rubble here.” Asked if they would would find survivors, he replied: “There is always a chance. We would not be here if there wasn’t a chance.”

Mohamed Ait Hasan, wearing a battered djellaba robe and broken hat, said he was counting the deaths caused by the earthquake for the authorities. The names of the dead, written in red ballpoint in columns in an exercise book, added up to 86 in Imintala, he said, and the number was steadily rising. “Twenty-four people are missing,” he added. He estimated that the village had a population of about 200. In the next utterly destroyed hamlet along the road, Adouz, the road to which was cut off by the fallen cliff, he said that so far 36 people had been killed

Imintala is a cherished stop on a walking route through the Anougal Valley, about 55 miles south of Marrakesh. Latifa Asselouf, 56, a mountain guide from the area, knows many of its families. As she made her way through the ruins of the village for the first time since the quake, people repeatedly stopped her, clinging to her and breaking down in grief. “I took my guests to stay in so many of these people’s homes and they took photos of their hosts — but now so many of them are dead.”

Every person who greeted her said that they had lost relations. Omar Aarab, a man in his fifties, had a battered face, wounds from when his house collapsed on him. Dragged out after two hours, he was told he had lost his 12-year-old daughter. Another man who approached Asselouf had lost his wife and three children.

The road to Imintala has become a trail of tears. In Asselouf’s hometown of Amizmiz, at the foot of the mountains on the approach from Marrakesh, families were huddled in an olive grove with makeshift tarpaulins of sheets spread over the branches of trees to provide shelter from the sun. “I have seen the burial of 20 people here,” Asselouf said.

One of those funerals was for Brahin Ait Oussafer, 57, who died when he was closing up for the night in his family’s supermarket. “He was behind the counter and so couldn’t make it out in time,” said Abdelhak, his brother.

The road from Marrakesh to Amizmiz was a stream of convoys, some military but mainly ordinary people carrying aid from all over the country. Other volunteers organised food and essential goods to help victims of the earthquake after complaints that the authorities were slow to respond.

Neither King Mohammed nor Aziz Akhannouch, the prime minister, have addressed the nation since the disaster. Flags were lowered across Morocco as the king ordered three days of national mourning from Sunday.

Search teams from Spain and Qatar have also joined efforts to find people in the rubble. France is insisting that the reluctance of Morocco to accept French offers of aid does not represent a snub, though it comes at a time of growing tensions between Rabat and its former colonial power.

In Imintala trekkers used to look out from the terrace of Fatima’s hostel to apple orchards and fields of corn against the backdrop of Gorza mountain, but now the building lies under the fallen cliff. Meriam Ait Hammou, a young woman, stood looking at the mass of rock. “My cousins are under there,” she said. “I’m waiting because the rescuers said they can hear someone breathing.”

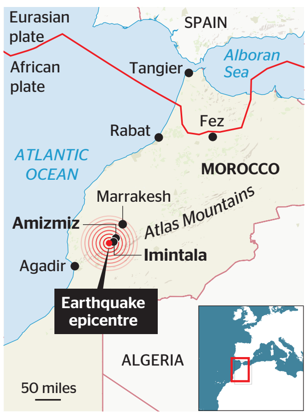
MOSA’AB ELSHAMY/AP; FADEL SENNA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES







Homes in Amizmiz, south of Marrakesh, have been turned to rubble. International teams are aiding the search for survivors and in Imintala bodies are still being found



When quake hit, Morocco’s king was living in luxury in France

David Chazan Paris

King Mohammed of Morocco’s absence from the country when the devastating earthquake struck on Friday has focused attention on his life of luxury in France.

The king was on a private visit to France last week and he issued a statement about the quake only after flying back to Rabat the next day. He often spends time in France. In 2020, he bought a mansion in the 7th arrondissement of Paris, near the Eiffel Tower, from Prince Khalid bin Sultan Al Saud, a member of the Saudi royal family.

The price was never made public, but the property had been valued at €80 million. Marie-Hélène Lundgreen, the manager of the estate agency Belles demeures de France, an affiliate of Christie’s International Real Estate, told Le Figaro at the time that it may have been sold for more.

Built in 1912, the ten-bedroom mansion has a swimming pool, a games room, a spa, a hair salon, a conference room, a 3,300 sq ft garden and a vast terrace with a stunning view of Paris. The king also owns the Château de Betz, about 35 miles northeast of Paris, which was bought by his father, King Hassan, in 1972.

The 18th-century property was rebuilt before the First World War. It has a walled park and gardens listed as among the most beautiful in France. According to locals, Mohammed visits the château several times a year. They rarely see him, but his retinue and bodyguards never go unnoticed. He keeps thoroughbreds at stables in the grounds and sometimes enters them in races at Chantilly.

Despite the king’s sojourns in France, Paris and Rabat have had a troubled relationship in recent years and Morocco has not taken up offers of earthquake aid by its former colonial power.

Catherine Colonna, the French foreign minister, played down suggestions of a rift. However, the French ambassador’s post has been empty for months and a visit to Rabat by President Macron has been postponed several times.

ALAMY



King Mohammed and his Château de Betz, northeast of Paris

‘Lost’ grapes of Italy could save vineyards from extreme weather

Italy
Tom Kington Rome

A small Italian vineyard that grows near-forgotten grapes to stop them becoming extinct may become a vital supplier of heat-resistant varieties as winemakers battle climate change, researchers have said.

The 500 varieties grown at the Grinzane Cavour vineyard in the Piedmont region are being given a new lease of life as growers move further north and higher up mountains to escape sweltering summers. “We are growing varieties which risked being lost forever yet could now prove to be vital to the future of this region,” Anna Schneider, who created the vineyard, said.

As temperatures soared above 40C in Italy this summer, grapes grown in the hottest regions, such as Sardinia, shrivelled and died on the vine. The heat compounded the effect of a killer fungus brought on by freak rains last spring to cut Italy’s expected wine production by 14 per cent this year.

The vineyard, set up by Italy’s National Research Council in 1992, did not set out to fight for the future of wine, but to preserve its past. “This is a museum, a snapshot of wine at the start of the 20th century,” Schneider said.

The vineyards of Piedmont, in the north of Italy, are dominated by grapes such as barbera, moscato bianco and dolcetto that have pushed out older varieties, some of which had been deemed too acidic. But as rising heat reduces the necessary acid in grapes, that has become a virtue.



“We have a long-forgotten grape called liseiret, a parent of chardonnay, which used to be common in France, Italy and Germany but has now almost vanished,” Schneider said. “When we first grew it 20 years ago it was too acidic, but we regrew it recently and it is now a very interesting candidate for use in spumante.”

Another acidic variety, becuet, which grew in the Val di Susa valley in Piedmont, is also getting a second chance.

Rising heat has driven up the alcohol content of Italian wines, with an average increase of 1 per cent in the past ten years. One solution could be a shift to grapes such as bubbierasco, a descendant of the nebbiolo grape grown by Grinzane Cavour, which produces lighter wines.

Growers in the Alpine Valle d’Aosta region have been forced to push vineyards from an altitude of 1,000m (3,280ft) ten years ago to about 1,200m. In Sicily, prices are soaring for land higher up the slopes of Mount Etna, and farmers have started planting bananas, mangoes and avocados.

Domenico Bosco, an expert with Coldiretti, a farmers’ lobby group, said that northern Italian vineyards were even worse off than those in Sicily. “Because it’s further north, the summer days are longer, with more sun,” he said.

Schneider said that the creation of the Piedmont vineyard in 1992 had allowed researchers time to meet veteran growers who still remembered the disappearing varieties.

“The grannies of growers back then were able to show us where older types were still growing amid the new grapes, and crucially they knew all the names,” she said.

MICHAEL BUCKNER/VARIETY/GETTY IMAGES



Scaled-down production The American actress Dakota Johnson at the Toronto Film Festival for her new film Daddio, which takes place over one taxi journey

Pope hails saints who helped Jews

Poland
Paulina Olszanka Warsaw

A large Polish family executed by the Nazis for sheltering Jews during the Second World War has been beatified by the Vatican in a ceremony attended by more than 30,000 Catholic pilgrims in southeast Poland.

Acting as an envoy for Pope Francis, Cardinal Marcello Semeraro read out the Latin formula for the beatification on Sunday, saying in his homily that the Ulma family — a mother and father and their seven children, including an unborn baby — “paid the highest price of martyrdom” for their “gesture of hospitality and care, and of mercy”.

Pope Francis’ own address was broadcast as part of the outdoor mass in Markowa, as he spoke to the crowds in the Vatican about the importance of “doing good and in the service of those in need”. He added that the family “represented a ray of light in the darkness” of the war.

The Ulma family, Jozef and Wiktoria and their six children, were executed by the Nazis in 1944 after they were discovered to have been hiding eight Jews in their barn, which in occupied Poland carried penalty of death.

It is thought that the family were betrayed by a local policeman collaborating with the Germans, who was executed later in 1944 by the Polish underground resistance for his role in the crimes.

The Ulmas have long been lauded in Poland as an example of staunch Christian values. Jozef and Wiktoria were Catholic activists and it is believed their faith led them to take their Jewish compatriots into their care.

Recognised by Israel as “righteous among the nations”, they are the first family to have been beatified together.

Mateusz Morawiecki, Poland’s prime minister, took time out from his own general election campaign to attend the Markowa mass.

His government, made up mainly of the conservative Law and Justice party, has long insisted that ordinary Poles have been unfairly maligned for their role in the Holocaust. An estimated 1.8 million Jews were killed in occupied Poland, shot in roundups in ghettos, died during the train journey to, or killed by poison gas in extermination camps such as Treblinka and Auschwitz.

Le Pen visit puts Meloni on back foot

Tom Kington

The Italian deputy prime minister has invited Marine Le Pen to address a political rally this weekend, adding to tensions within the coalition government led by Giorgia Meloni.

Le Pen, 55, will speak in Pontida, in the north of the country, at an annual rally run by the hard-right League party, reaffirming her alliance with Matteo Salvini, its leader, in their European parliamentary voting group. “We will speak of the joy of fighting together for liberty and the democracy of our nations,” Le Pen, figurehead of the populist National Rally in France, said.

Salvini’s invitation was seen as his latest effort to move further to the right than Meloni, who has moderated her fiery opposition to the EU since taking office 11 months ago and is now struggling with the humdrum business of putting together Italy’s annual budget.

“Salvini is trying to gather up all the votes to the right of Meloni, creating difficulty for her,” said Giuseppe Orsina, deputy director of the school of government at Luiss University.

The invitation drew a stinging response from Antonio Tajani, the Italian foreign minister and a leading official in Forza Italia, the centre-right third party in Meloni’s coalition. “Marine Le Pen will never be our ally,” he said. “Our values are an alternative to those of Le Pen and the AfD [in Germany].”

Salvini, 50, has taken to posting about migrant crime, recalling his time as interior minister in 2018-19 when he blocked charity rescue boats from landing migrants in Italy before he brought down his coalition with the Five Star party in a failed attempt to force elections. He is backing the anti-green stance of Europe’s hard right, and said at the weekend: “If we leave Europe to the left, it will force an electric car and a green house on you but won’t lift a finger to defend our borders.”

Salvini allied with Meloni’s Brothers of Italy party and Forza Italia to win last year’s Italian election, but has looked uncomfortable at times in a cabinet run by Italy’s first female prime minister. Meloni’s membership of a different EU parliament alliance has not helped.

Salvini and Le Pen have urged Meloni to ally with their group, Identity and Democracy, before EU elections next June, but Orsina predicted that Meloni would refuse, knowing it would exclude her from talks to elect the next head of the EU Commission.

He said Meloni could expect more Salvini-inspired “minor earthquakes” shaking up the Italian government, but that he did not expect it to fall.

Salvini, he added, would stop short of attacking Meloni on her apparent inability to halt the migrants sailing to Italy this year, despite her campaign promises to do so. “That’s an end-of-the-world weapon. If he does that, it’s open war and she might threaten elections.”

Lorenzo Pregliasco, director of the polling company YouTrend, agreed that Salvini was not ready to bring down another Italian government. “He’s got too much to lose,” he said.

Hiker, 86, found alive after four days stranded in Alps

Germany
Emma Yeomans

An 86-year-old man who went missing while trying to climb a mountain in the Bavarian Alps has been found after four days wandering alone.

The man, named by the newspaper Bild as Norbert Jung, set out alone to the town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen to climb the Alpspitze, an 8,622ft peak with a number of popular climbing routes to the top.

Jung, from the western state of Rhineland-Palatinate, arrived last Wednesday and told his wife that he wanted to spend the night on the mountain then descend the next day.

He got lost on the mountain and lost his phone, Bavarian police said, and a missing person’s report was filed.

Jung had no food and soon ran out of water. Mountain rescuers and police mounted a search by land and air, but the rescue efforts were stopped last Friday. The authorities appealed for sightings.

After four days of wandering the mountain forests alone, Jung came across a forest road near a mountain hut and lay down exhausted, hoping that another hiker would find him, Garmisch-Partenkirchen police said.

“The help he hoped for arrived in the form of an Austrian mountain biker. He was able to get his attention and asked to make an emergency call,” police said. Jung then asked for the biker’s phone so he could call his “desperately waiting” wife and tell her that he was alive.

Jung, who had survived the four days by drinking from “water sources in the forest”, was taken to hospital by mountain rescuers, but was unhurt.

Jung told a police officer that he had spent his nights on the mountain trying to find a way down, but was not sure exactly where he had been.

Killer could be swapped for journalist

Russia
Alistair Dawber Washington

US officials have identified a Russian serving a life sentence for murder in Germany as someone President Putin may be willing to swap for Americans jailed in Russia on trumped-up charges, including the Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich.

Vadim Krasikov, 58, was imprisoned in 2021 for shooting to death a Chechen dissident in the Tiergarten park in Berlin in 2019.

At the time, Putin ordered officials to explore a prisoner swap deal with Germany, according to the Journal. Washington now believes that Krasikov could be key to freeing Paul Whelan, 53, a former US marine, and Gershkovich, 32, who was arrested in March and charged with espionage. The newspaper and the US government deny all charges.

Russia has indicated that it is unwilling to free Gershkovich before his case is heard. Whelan was convicted on espionage charges in 2020 and sentenced to 16 years in prison.

DANIEL KNIGHTON/GETTY IMAGES



Sea dog Acacia tries to stay on the crest of a wave with its owner, Alaina Pekary, in the Helen Woodward Animal Centre surf contest at Del Mar Dog Beach in California



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Charles sends 'good wishes' to Kim before Putin talks

North Korea
Valentine Low, Marc Bennetts
Gavin Blair Tokyo

The King has sent a message to Kim Jong-un congratulating North Korea on its national day and sending his "good wishes for the future".

The message was not publicised by Buckingham Palace. Charles was following the example set by the late Queen, who sent a number of such messages to the dynastic dictatorship in the past.

North Korea, which has been ruled by three successive members of the Kim family since the communist state was founded in 1948, commemorated its 75th anniversary with a vast military parade in Pyongyang on Saturday. The event was attended by delegations from China and Russia.

The nuclear-armed country is regarded as a pariah state, with the reclusive and paranoid Kim reluctant to meet foreign leaders or leave the country, but Britain has maintained diplomatic relations since 2000.

North Korea also received congratulatory messages from President Putin, President Xi, President Lukashenko of Belarus and the King of Sweden, among others, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

An identical message from the late Queen was publicised by North Korea in 2021 shortly before it launched test missiles. Sources said that she had sent such messages previously, but did not reveal for how long.

The King's message coincided with reports that Kim had boarded his luxury armoured train for a visit to Russia to meet Putin in Vladivostok, a short distance across the border. They are expected to hold talks at the Kremlin's Eastern Economic Forum on possible North Korean weapons supplies for the Russian army in Ukraine.



Kim Jong-un marked the 75th anniversary of North Korea

The Kremlin said yesterday that Kim would arrive in Russia "in the coming days". It gave no other details.

South Korean media said that Kim's train was likely to have left Pyongyang on Sunday evening, with the meeting taking place as early as today. Kim's last foreign trip was to meet Putin in Vladivostok in 2019 after the collapse of talks with President Trump's administration on denuclearising the Korean peninsula.

Sergei Shoigu, the Russian defence minister, was in North Korea in July for a visit that the White House said was aimed at furthering a deal to supply Moscow with arms in exchange for food. The White House said last month that Putin and Kim had exchanged letters on the subject.

There has been talk by officials in Moscow that North Korean "volunteers" could be deployed alongside Russian forces in Ukraine. A Russian military analyst told state television last year that Pyongyang could send up to 100,000 soldiers to Ukraine.

Biden cut off in rambling press conference

United States
Foreign Staff

A press conference given by President Biden came to an abrupt and bizarre end when his press secretary announced there would be no more questions and jazz music began playing while he was still speaking.

The incident happened in Vietnam, which Biden is visiting after attending the G20 summit in India, after he made an apparently mistaken reference to a John Wayne movie by calling climate-change deniers "lying dog-faced pony soldiers".

Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary, hurriedly ended the news conference in Hanoi. Biden, 80, then told reporters: "I tell you what, I don't know about you, but I'm going to go to bed."

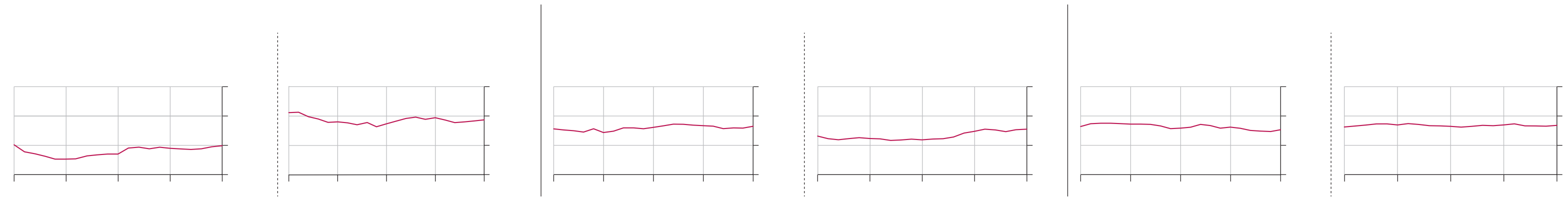
He had said earlier that climate change was the biggest threat to humanity and was "even more frightening than a nuclear war". He then began a rambling anecdote.

"My brother loves having these famous lines from the movies that he always quotes … there is this movie about John Wayne, there's an Indian scout," he said. "And they're on their horses in the saddles and there's three or four Indians in headdresses and the Union soldier is basically saying 'Come with me, we'll take care of you' and the Indian looks at Wayne and points to the Union soldier and says: 'He's a lying dog-faced pony soldier.'

He added: "Well, there's a lot of lying dog-faced pony soldiers out there about global warming."

Biden has used the line before but doubts have been raised about its accuracy. There is a 1952 Western called *Pony Soldier*, but it stars Tyrone Power, not Wayne, and mention is made only of a pony soldier with the "tongue of a snake". Film buffs have been unable to find the quote in any of Wayne's roles.

Business



Germany expected to slip into recession as Britain beats forecasts

Jack Barnett Economics Correspondent

Germany is set to be the only big European economy that contracts this year and it may even slip back into recession, while Britain has "held up better than expected", according to new forecasts from Brussels.

The European Commission expects the German economy to shrink by 0.4 per cent this year, a sharp downgrade from the 0.2 per cent expansion predicted in May. That, in turn, will drag on the economy of the eurozone, with the region's gross domestic product expected to grow by 0.8 per cent this year, down from the 1.1 per cent forecast in the spring. The updated predictions indicate that the bloc will avoid a recession this year, but some members may come close.

A surge in international energy prices alongside a drop in global demand have held back recovery in Germany's manufacturing sector. Exports fell in July, linked to a synchronised effort by central banks to tighten monetary policy to rein in inflation and a slowdown in demand from China, a key export market.

Elevated energy prices and higher wage costs have affected the viability of Germany's export-oriented model. The country fell into recession over the winter and output has stalled since.

The commission said that growth in Britain had "held up better than previously expected", leading it to raise its outlook for 2023. Gross domestic product grew by 0.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2023 and by 0.2 per cent in the second quarter, despite high energy prices and inflation.

The upgrade comes after a revision of official data from the Office for National Statistics this month, showing that the British economy had recovered from the pandemic more rapidly than previously thought.

In its summer economic forecast, the commission said: "Overall, the weaker growth momentum in the EU is expected to extend to 2024 and the impact of tight monetary policy is set to continue restraining economic activity."

Spain is set to be the best-performing big EU economy, growing by 2.2 per cent in 2023 and 1.9 per cent in 2024. France is poised to grow by 1 per cent. Italy and the Netherlands are expected to expand by 0.9 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively. Households and businesses are being squeezed by the European Central Bank raising interest rates to a record-equalling 3.75 per cent.

Train delay puts 2,000 jobs at risk

HS2 hold-ups threaten future of Alstom factory

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

Thousands of high-value manufacturing jobs are at risk because Britain's largest train assembly plant is due to run out of work by the end of the year after delays in the contract to build high-speed rolling stock for HS2.

Ministers are being warned that if the factory, with a workforce of 2,000, is mothballed, 1,400 UK supply chain companies employing as many as 17,000 people also will be affected.

The Litchurch Lane works in Derby has been building trains since the advent of the railway boom during the Industrial Revolution. Since 2021 it has been owned by Alstom after its takeover of Bombardier. It is the French group's single largest production facility worldwide and includes a workforce of 500 design engineers.

Most recently, the plant has supplied the fleet of 70 trains for the Elizabeth Line on London's Crossrail network and has supplied London's Underground and Overground services, as well South Western, Greater Anglia, West Midlands and the c2c Essex commuter lines. Two years ago it won Britain's first train export order in more than a decade, supplying the Cairo monorail system in Egypt. However, that contract and existing British orders all come to a close by the end of this year.

It had been hoped that the £2 billion design-and-build contract for HS2, won in alliance with the Hitachi plant at Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, would sustain the factory for years to come. However, the start of manufacturing for that has been pushed back to late 2026 because of delays in the construction of the HS2 high-speed line.

Alstom had been hoping, too, that it would win other contracts to replace or re-engineer the older diesel trains of CrossCountry and Chiltern Railways and to produce new rolling stock for Southeastern, but Department for Transport tenders for that work, delayed by the pandemic, have not been forthcoming.

"There is no pipeline of work for Derby from the first quarter of next year because of the delays and dithering," Steve Turner, assistant general secretary for manufacturing at the Unite trade union, said. "This could be devastating for Derby and we could be looking at the destruction of the rail supply chain in general in this country."

It is understood that Alstom is looking at plans to reduce the workforce at Derby after a lack of assurances from ministers. The company said: "Derby is very important to Alstom and to the UK rail sector. It is the only UK factory that can design, engineer, build and test trains for domestic and export markets."

The transport department said: "Rail manufacturing plays an important role in growing the UK economy and delivering better services for passengers. The government remains committed to supporting the entire sector. We remain in contact with Alstom as it develops a sustainable future for its Derby site."

DAVE M BENETT/GETTY IMAGES



Good causes Holly Willoughby, the presenter, attends the BGC Group charity day in London on behalf of the children's cancer charity Together for Short Lives. The event is in memory of those who died in the 9/11 terror attacks in New York

HMV tycoon pulls out of Wilko deal

Ben Martin

About 10,200 jobs will be lost after the collapse of a last-ditch effort to rescue part of Wilko.

Doug Putman, the Canadian billionaire behind HMV, had been eyeing a deal to buy about 100 of the stricken discount retailer's sites, but his firm confirmed yesterday that it was walking away from a deal.

Administrators at PwC, who had been scrambling to salvage parts of Wilko, said last night that it had "become clear that no significant part of the Wilko operations can be rescued as a going concern" following the withdrawal of Putman Investments.

As a result, all of Wilko's shop estate, which had numbered about 400 sites before it fell into administration a month ago, will be shut by early October. Its two distribution centres will close on Friday and operations at the retailer's support centre will be wound down.

This will result in 9,100 redundancies in the shops, 886 job losses in the warehouses and a further 210 redundancies in the support centre, the administrators said. The 93-year-old Wilko had about 12,500 workers at the time it collapsed. However, administrators had already announced about 1,600 redundancies and 52 shop closures, while some employees had quit the retailer.

It is hoped that a small number of jobs will be saved through a sale of Wilko's brand and website to The Range, a rival discounter. Poundland is also thought to be close agreeing a deal to buy about 70 shops and may rehire some workers who are made redundant. Last week B&M agreed to buy 51 stores for £13 million, but its deal did not include Wilko employees.

Zelf Hussain, one of the joint administrators, said: "Despite the significant and intensive efforts of both ourselves and Putman Investments … a transaction could not be progressed due to the inability to reduce central infrastructure costs quickly enough to make a deal commercially viable."

Need to know

1 There is "unlikely" to be any spare money for tax cuts in the autumn statement, Jeremy Hunt has said. The chancellor predicted taxes were more likely to rise than fall unless the government could find a way to improve growth. Page 2

2 More than half the oil unintentionally spilt in British waters over the past decade was in protected areas designed to safeguard rare and threatened fish, whales and other wildlife. Projects operated by BP, Shell and Perenco, which was responsible for the recent Dorset oil leak, were among those that spilt 509 tonnes of oil over the period, research by Unearthed, Greenpeace's investigative arm, shows. Page 18

3 Thousands of manufacturing jobs are at risk as the Litchurch Lane works in Derby, Britain's largest train assembly plant. is due to run out of work by the end of the year after delays in the contract to build high-speed rolling stock for HS2. Page 33

4 Germany is set to be the only big European economy that contracts this year and it may even slip back into recession, while Britain has "held up better than expected", according to new forecasts from Brussels. Page 33

5 About 10,200 jobs are to be lost after the collapse of a last-ditch effort by Doug Putman, the Canadian billionaire behind HMV, to rescue part of the discount retailer Wilko. Page 33

6 Lockheed Martin, the US defence group, is launching a bid for a £1.2 billion Ministry of Defence helicopters contract, vowing to create hundreds of new jobs and lucrative exports by bringing the latest generation of Black Hawks to Britain.

7 The future of Scotland's only commercial goldminer is in the balance. Scotgold Resources has suspended trading in its shares on the London Stock Exchange and said it needed significant funding to continue as a going concern. Page 36

8 The Restaurant Group called time on its loss-making leisure unit as it announced a deal under which it is paying the Big Table Group £7.5 million to take the business off its hands. The operator of such brands as Café Rouge is acquiring 75 restaurants, with the central costs and 3,000 staff needed to run those sites, most of which trade under the Frankie & Benny's and Chiquito brands. Page 38

9 An activist hedge fund that called on TP Icap to sell itself has built a stake in Britain's oldest spread-betting company. The move by the California-based Phase 2 Partners to amass a holding in IG Group comes as the FTSE 250 company is seeking a new boss. Page 39

10 John Holland-Kaye, the boss of Heathrow, says the airport is "back to its best" after it handled more than 7.5 million passengers last month, up 25 per cent on the same month last year, but 1.7 per cent below pre-pandemic levels. Page 41

Vistry shifts to 'less risky'

Tom Howard

The owner of Bovis Homes is to go all-in on its business building affordable homes for housing associations and local councils in a shift intended to sidestep the downturn in the market for private sales.

By focusing entirely on its "high-return, capital-light, resilient" partnerships division, Vistry thinks it should be able to return £1 billion to its shareholders over the next three years while helping to address "the country's chronic shortage" of social housing.

The strategy change was the highlight of an as-expected half-year report and prompted a jump in Vistry's shares of 12.6 per cent, or 100½p, to 900½p, their highest close in more than a year.

Vistry was formed in 2020 by the merger of Bovis Homes and the housebuilding division of Galliford Try, a move engineered by Greg Fitzgerald, Bovis's chief executive since 2017, before which he ran Galliford Try.

Vistry, which also builds houses and flats under the Linden Homes brand, can trace its roots back to the late 1800s. Last year Fitzgerald, 59, decided to buy Countryside Partnerships, a struggling developer, and to fold its operations into Vistry's, expanding its partnerships business substantially.

Now it has opted to focus entirely on that division, ditching its tag as a traditional housebuilder. With house prices and mortgage approvals falling at a rate not seen since the 2008 financial crisis, Vistry wants to have merged its private and social housebuilding operations by the end of the year.

Fitzgerald said there was "much less risk" with partnerships because the partners — be they housing associations, councils or big landlords — forward-funded the building of schemes. As well as giving the group "massive visibility" over its income, because there is a guaranteed buyer upon completion, there is less exposure to the whims of the property market, which is in the midst of a downturn.

In a typical partnership development, Vistry would find land for a housing association, which would pay for the plot and would commit to purchasing two thirds of whatever Vistry builds there.

"You're using their cash to buy the site and fund the work in progress, although it must be said that there's a lesser margin," Fitzgerald said.

"Subcontractors, particularly in markets like today where developers are stopping sites, can actually see a route to being on site for the next one or two years and they will reduce their prices accordingly."

The third of the properties that are not pre-sold are Vistry's to sell to private homebuyers. Fitzgerald confirmed that the Bovis and Linden Homes brands would be kept on for that.

Since partnerships are less capital-intensive — the partners fund most of the building costs — Vistry expects its change in strategy to result in a "significant release of capital". Shareholders are set to receive £1 billion in dividends and buybacks over the next three years.

While there is "good demand" from partners for its social housing, private





Vistry's boss Greg Fitzgerald: "less risk" with partnerships

Solution 'will be found' for Britain's car exports

James Hurley

A BMW board member said he was "optimistic" that a solution would be found to the problems expected when the European Union introduces tariffs on exports of British-built cars in January.

Speaking as he confirmed a £600 million investment in the group's Oxford factory to secure the future of the Mini, Milan Nedeljkovic, BMW's production chief, struck a positive note on the "rules of origin" tariffs.

The rules, which are due to come into force next year, specify that 45 per cent of the value of an electric vehicle being sold in the EU must come from Britain or the EU to avoid tariffs, as well as 60 per cent of the battery's total value.

"We have decided to manufacture the new generation [of Mini cars] here in Oxford since this is the home of Mini, and we are looking forward in an optimistic way that we will find some answers for the tariff question as well," Nedeljkovic said.

He said there was a "supply issue" to solve because of the lack of electric vehicle battery production in Britain, which would make it harder to comply with rules of origin. "We're working very intensively with our supply base to have the best conditions for our production here in the UK," he said.

Kemi Badenoch, the business secretary, said the car industry was "screaming at the EU" at the prospect of tariffs, which risked helping Chinese manufacturers when more time was needed to build local capacity. The German government is pushing for the restrictions to be eased.

BMW's plan, which lifts uncertainty over the future of the Mini in Oxfordshire, will finance upgrades to allow production of the electric Mini Cooper and the new electric Mini Aceman crossover SUV. The government is contributing £75 million in subsidies. Industry leaders hailed the package as a "vote of confidence" in carmaking after years of Brexit-related uncertainty.

The Cowley plant will make only electric models from 2030 and cars will be exported world. The same two models will be made in China and exports of those cars will begin next year.

BMW also will invest in its plant in Swindon, which makes parts for Mini models. It was too soon to say what would happen to an engine plant in Hams Hall, near Birmingham, Nedeljkovic said.

Ministers are believed to have been jolted into supporting Mini at the Oxford plant after The Times reported last autumn that the next generation of the electric Mini would be produced not in Britain but in China by BMW and Great Wall Motor, its Chinese associate.

Mini executives had warned of the operational difficulty and inefficiency at Cowley of running assembly lines producing both battery electric vehicles and cars running on traditional internal combustion engines.

Stefanie Wurst, BMW's head of the Mini brand, said at the time: "Plant Oxford is not geared up for electric vehicles. It will need renovation and investment."

Mike Hawes, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, the automotive trade body, called the announcement "yet another vote of confidence in UK automotive manufacturing".

Her added: "Investments such as this improve productivity and help to deliver jobs, growth and economic benefits for the country."



Mini future in the UK guaranteed

BMW to announce investment in Cowley plant

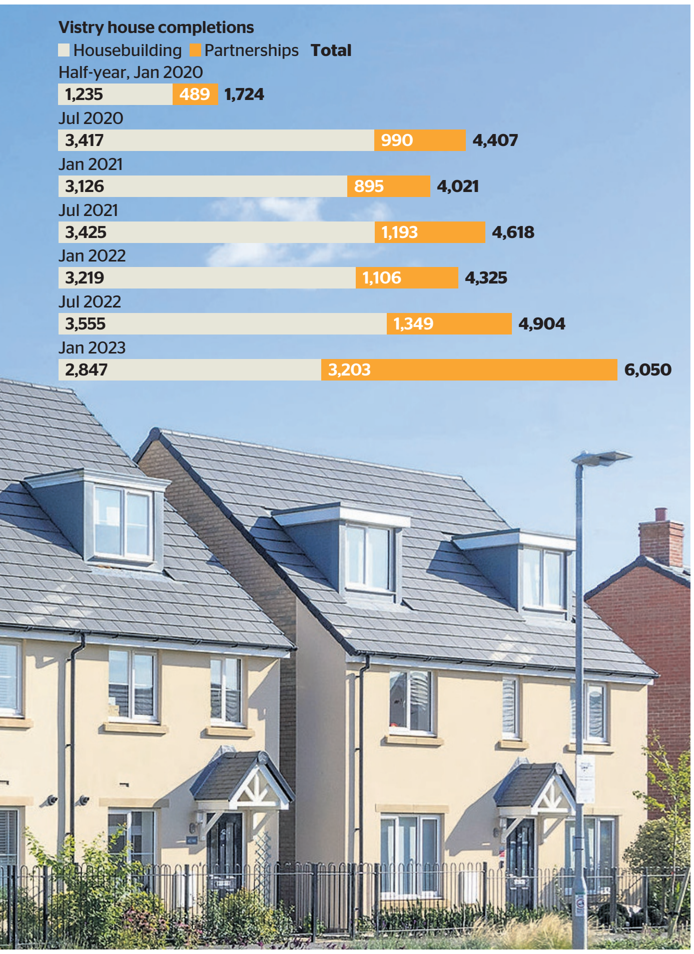
Robert Lea Industrial Editor

The long-term future of Mini production in Britain has been secured, with BMW set to announce an investment of hundreds of millions of pounds in its factory at Cowley in Oxford.

The announcement, expected this morning, is likely to give the green light ... tive news earlier in the year, including Ford cutting 1,300 jobs at its research and development centre in Essex; the financial collapse of the planned Britishvolt battery gigafactory in Northumberland; and the abrupt closure with the loss of hundreds of jobs of Arrival, an electric van and bus company that was about to go into

BMW's investment in its UK Mini plant was revealed by The Times yesterday

affordable housing



sales have slowed in recent months owing to the latest jump in mortgage costs. "In particular, we saw a significant decline in completions to first-time buyers, whose ability to purchase has been most affected by the rate increases," the company said.

Vistry delivered 7,143 homes across its partnerships and housebuilding divisions between January and June, 32.1 per cent more than in the same period of 2022. Revenue rose by 31.4 per cent to £1.78 million from £1.35 million. However, pre-tax profits fell by 8.4 per cent to £174 million, from £189.9 million at the halfway stage of 2022.

Other developers reported a much steeper drop in profits in the first half of 2023, which Fitzgerald said his company had avoided because of its greater focus on the "resilient" partnerships business. "It just proves the point again of why we're doing what we're doing."

Tempus, page 42

Climbing low rungs of ladder

Behind the story

The strategic shift by Vistry represents a bet by its chief executive that an "affordable housing boom" is on the horizon (Tom Howard writes).

Higher mortgage costs may sap the willingness of would-be homebuyers, but demand remains from housing associations and local authorities Greg Fitzgerald expects demand from those partners to keep rising as the country confronts a "housing disaster".

There have been repeated calls for the government to invest heavily in building social homes. If this happens, Fitzgerald wants his company to be the go-to partner for housing providers.

"The funding [for local authorities to build houses] is there and you'd like to think that at some point the Conservatives or Labour will pump more cash into this issue, particularly as part of any levelling-up agendas they may have," he said. "I think we're about to go into an affordable housing boom over the next two or three years. There is no other way it can go. We've got a major issue with housing in this country, and it's not just in cities."

Fitzgerald argues that building houses has other benefits. "Don't forget, if you build a large number of houses, there's a huge amount of infrastructure that comes with it, whether that's schools, doctors' surgeries, roads, bridges."

Building with councils or housing associations as partners is viewed as stable because there will always be a demand for social housing. Some see that as boring, but Fitzgerald said his investors, including the big American shareholders he inherited from the Countryside acquisition, were supportive.

"I think all of our shareholders are mainly holding Vistry shares not for the housebuilding part of the business, but the partnerships business," he said.

Black Hawk maker looks to MoD deal

Alex Ralph

Lockheed Martin is launching a bid for a £1.2 billion Ministry of Defence helicopters contract, vowing to create hundreds of new jobs and lucrative exports by bringing the latest generation of Black Hawks to Britain.

The American defence group plans to create an assembly line in Gosport, Hampshire, and for parts to be made elsewhere in the country if it is chosen to build new helicopters to replace the armed forces' ageing fleet of Pumas.

Lockheed's bid could create more than 500 jobs assembling and building up to 44 Black Hawk helicopters, a mainstay of the US military, at the Hampshire factory of StandardAero, its supply partner.

Speaking before the announcement of its plans today at the Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition in London, Paul Livingston, chief executive of Lockheed Martin UK, said it also could generate about £470 million of exports by selling further British-assembled helicopters overseas. "It would deliver the very latest generation of Black Hawks, which have proven versatility, are quick to build and quick to certify, and create a generation of highly skilled jobs in the UK," he said.

Livingston, 54, is a member of the Department for Business and Trade's UK investment council, which seeks to drive inward investment. Lockheed,

£1.2bn

Contract for UK military helicopters
Ministry of Defence

which acquired Sikorsky, the maker of the Black Hawk helicopter, from United Technologies for $9 billion in 2015, is competing against Airbus, the European aerospace company, and Leonardo, of Italy, formerly Agusta-Westland, for the MoD tender.

Airbus and Leonardo have announced their bids already. In June Airbus said it planned build a helicopter production line at Broughton, north Wales, where it makes wings for Airbus commercial aircraft types.

It is unclear when the ministry will announce its preferred bidder for the procurement programme, but the new aircraft are expected to enter service during the mid-2020s to replace several existing helicopters operated by the Royal Air Force and the army.

Lockheed employs about 1,600 people in the UK, where it invests about £1.6 billion annually, including in Havant and in Ampthill, Bedfordshire.

It would be the first time that a Black Hawk fleet has been assembled and built in Britain and procured by the MoD, although British personnel have used the helicopters with allied partners.

About 5,000 Black Hawks have been delivered to 35 allied nations, including several Nato countries.

The seven-year contract also includes air and ground crew training, as well as in-service technical support and maintenance.

Tossing down gold without a vision

BUSINESS COMMENTARY *Robert Lea*

Before the general election of 2010, this newspaper ran an audit of the £1.8 billion of taxpayers' money distributed to the regions by the Labour business minister Lord Mandelson. It might have been coincidence, but we found a disproportionately large amount appeared to be heading to marginal or at-risk Labour seats. It prompted the Tory grandee Ken Clarke to compare Mandelson to a Bourbon monarch travelling the land distributing gold coins from a gilded coach.

A fat lot of good it did Labour, rusticated as it was from much of the Commons at that election.

The Cowley plant in east Oxford and the Ellesmere Port factory in Cheshire, whose futures have been secured on Rishi Sunak's watch, are in safe Labour seats. So though we are perhaps within nine months of the next general election, it can be assumed the prime minister is not indulging in local vote-buying. Instead, his messaging is about securing the country's manufacturing future and its automotive sector, in particular.

The news is great for the workforces of Cowley and Ellesmere Port. Sunak's overall ledger, however, suggests he is playing a dangerous game. For every winner picked, there have been huge opportunities lost, communities let down.

Cowley has been saved two years after Honda Swindon shut up shop for want of a framework of support for electric investment post-Brexit. The announcement of a £4 billion gigafactory in Somerset came only months after the depressing collapse of a similarly-sized Britishvolt venture in the northeast. Electric vans are rolling out of Ellesmere Port, but not in Bicester and Banbury after the unicorn start-up Arrival quit Britain. About 750 jobs were saved at Ford on Merseyside in electric car sub-assembly, but 1,300 were axed by the same company at its world-leading design centre in Essex as Ford's fulcrum of electrification shifts to Germany.

The most intriguing automotive news in recent days has been the taxpayer-supported development and production of prototype hydrogen fuel cell pick-up trucks by Toyota at its factory at Burnaston in Derbyshire. If ministers were to persuade Toyota to invest in large-scale British manufacturing of trucks running on hydrogen — regarded as the best solution for heavier-duty vehicles including lorries, buses and even taxis — it may not be enough to save the local Tory MP, Heather Wheeler. Her South Derbyshire seat invariably votes for the overall election-winning party. But it would be a huge signpost toward Britain's ambitions in the next big automotive technology revolution coming down the road.

Coup conundrum

There is an intriguing sideshow to the BMW investment at Cowley, an issue that dare not speak its name. BMW is already going into production of the next electric Mini in China with Great Wall Motor, its partner in the People's Republic. It has been intimated that the £600 million going into Cowley could mean the production in Oxford of electric vehicles by Great Wall. This would be something of a coup, given that BYD, China's largest electric vehicle manufacturer, has said the UK wouldn't even make its top ten of possible locations for overseas factory investment after Brexit.

Yet Britain's oscillating views on China poses a question: do we accept a Chinese company that will help to sustain UK manufacturing jobs, or do we regard it as a security headache and Trojan horse? It is worth noting that the battery cells powering the vans coming out of Ellesmere Port have come halfway round the world. From China.

Still no strategy

Fighting fires to prevent the demise of the UK automotive sector has led ministers to take their eye off an impending train crash.

News that the rolling stock manufacturing plant at the historic Litchurch Lane works in Derby will run out of work by the turn of the year puts 2,000 directly employed workers at risk and 17,000 in the wider UK railway supply chain.

The lack of work is for the want of new manufacturing contracts when orders for CrossCountry, Chiltern Railways and Southeastern lines have all been parked in a Department for Transport siding, at the same time that £2 billion of trains for HS2 have been delayed until 2026 because of dithering in the delivery of the high-speed line.

This is an unfortunate signal of what happens when a party of government decides it does not need an industrial strategy.

Stacked with debt

Everybody's making money in the aviation industry at present, including Pret a Manger. It got a random shout-out from Heathrow in its latest traffic update, which stated that the chain had filled, cut and sold a million sandwiches in its airport terminals this summer.

Except not everyone is rolling in dough. Heathrow remains lossmaking despite being back within a couple of percentage points of pre-pandemic passenger levels. The reason for that is the cost of servicing its £16 billion debt, which became central to its three-year quest to double airline passenger charges.

That two of the nation's great strategic assets, Heathrow and Thames Water, have fallen victim to overseas shareholders stacking them with debt and using operational income as a dividend cash till is a salutary lesson yet to be learnt over what we deserve as consumers and taxpayers from our state-created public utilities.

robert.lea@thetimes.co.uk
Alistair Osborne is away

'Highlands goldrush' is set to end in failure

The future of Scotland's only commercial goldminer is hanging in the balance (Greig Cameron writes).

Scotgold Resources has suspended trading in its shares on the London Stock Exchange and has said it needs significant funding to continue as a going concern.

The announcement came after a review of its operations in July and in the wake of "disappointing" production figures for the first half of the year.

Scotgold spent more than a decade raising funds and obtaining permits and consent for the Cononish mine, a project on the edge of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park where gold was discovered in the 1980s.

The first gold was extracted towards the end of 2020, with agreements struck to supply high-end Scottish jewellers and excited headlines about a new goldrush in the Highlands.

Plans to step up production to 2,000 ounces (57kg) monthly, worth more than £3 million, stalled because of the pandemic, equipment and recruitment issues and bad weather. In June, 818 ounces were produced and gold doré sales made to jewellery companies in July and August totalled £46,160.

Phil Day resigned as chief executive in July, citing a desire to spend more time with his family in Australia, as Scotgold said that ore output had been below expectations and that it was reviewing operations.

The Aim-listed business said yesterday that while the geological data suggested "no fatal flaws" in its plan, the company required "a significant capital investment". While talks to secure this financing were at an "advanced stage", it said the outcome was "highly uncertain" and that it risked going into administration without fresh investment.

"If the company cannot conclude a significant fundraising, it will cast material uncertainty for the company to continue as a going concern," it said.

It also said that the one unsecured creditor had recently demanded the full settlement of outstanding interest and that while it had enough funds to make the payment, this would not be in the best interest of all stakeholders. "In the event of default, there is a material risk the business could be placed into administration in the next few weeks," it said.

Nat le Roux, 66, the financial services veteran who is a former boss of IG Group, the spread-betting operation, is the largest shareholder in Scotgold with a 33 per cent stake.

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JAMES GLOSSOP



Scotgold spent more than a decade raising funds for the Cononish mine, but its high hopes have collapsed as its troubles built up

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New breed of collective pensions offer benefits 'at much lower level'

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

Claims about the benefits of a new breed of pension scheme proposed by the government are exaggerated and may not exist at all in some cases, a report has suggested.

Several earlier studies have found that retirement incomes could be boosted by between 22 per cent and 70 per cent if people were enrolled in so-called collective defined-contribution schemes rather than in conventional defined-contribution plans.

However, a study from Milliman and Barnett Waddingham, the actuarial firms, has found that the benefits would be at "a much lower level", while some people (or their heirs) would be worse off, especially if they died in their sixties or seventies.

The debate over collective schemes, sometimes known as "Dutch-style pensions", took on new life when Jeremy Hunt, in his Mansion House speech, proposed a rethink to boost retirement incomes while diverting more pension fund capital into growth assets. Royal Mail will introduce a collective scheme for its 150,000 employees next year.

Collective defined-contribution is a perpetual pension scheme that pools risk between generations and offers its members exposure to riskier but higher-return investments until they die. In conventional schemes, many members reduce risk in their late fifties and buy an annuity in their mid-sixties.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has floated the idea of a new type of collective defined-contribution scheme that people join late in life known as decumulation-only collective defined-contribution, designed to keep them invested in higher-growth assets such as listed shares and private equity.

The new report, commissioned by the Association of British Insurers, found that collective defined-contribution schemes would produce "better outcomes" for people in defined-contribution schemes who bought an annuity on retirement, but "at a much lower level" than previous studies had indicated. The verdict for those who keep their pensions invested and draw down cash as needed was patchy, while conventional schemes were often better "when the member dies at younger ages".

Collective defined-contribution schemes divides opinion even among experts. A study by Willis Towers Watson found that they could boost incomes by 70 per cent, while the Pensions Policy Institute has suggested a figure of more than 38 per cent. The government recently suggested 22 per cent. Sceptics say they could lead to older members drawing more generous pensions at the expense of younger members.

Yvonne Braun, director of policy at the ABI, said: "The government's projections for the returns savers would get from collective defined-contribution pensions are based on an incomplete picture. They will not necessarily provide a better outcome compared to traditional defined contribution pensions." She added that no single product was appropriate for everyone.

A DWP spokesman said: "Collective defined-contribution schemes have the potential to transform the UK pensions landscape. We have seen the positive effect of these schemes in other countries and it is abundantly clear that, when well designed and well run, they have the potential to provide a better retirement outcome for members and can be resilient to market shocks."

Workers lose track of pots

Nearly nine out of ten workers have an unclaimed workplace pension, according to research from Netwealth (Jon Rees writes).

The average sitting in "lost pots" is £28,000 per person. Half of the women in the study said they had lost track of up to five pensions. "The high number of stranded assets is clearly concerning," Charlotte Ransom, chief executive of Netwealth, said.

Aircraft engines recall deals a $3.5bn blow to RTX

Jessica Newman

The recall of hundreds of aircraft engines is set to deliver a $3.5 billion blow to RTX.

The American aerospace conglomerate, previously known as Raytheon, said yesterday that between 600 and 700 geared turbofan engines would be removed for quality checks over the next few years up to 2026 because of a "rare condition" in the powder metal used to make parts such as high-pressure turbine discs and compressor discs.

The engines, made by its Pratt & Whitney unit, power about half of Airbus's A320neo passenger jets. The recall would result in an estimated hit of $3 billion to $3.5 billion to the group's pre-tax operating profit in future years, it said, including a $3 billion pre-tax charge for the third quarter.

The recall is expected to hurt RTX's full-year performance, with sales set to be between $67.5 billion and $68.5 billion, down from earlier forecasts of $73 billion to $74 billion. RTX also trimmed its $9 billion free cashflow target for 2025 to about $7.5 billion.

"We are focused on addressing the challenges arising from the issue," Greg Hayes, 62, its chairman and chief executive, said. "We will never compromise on the safe operation of our fleet, which is why the Pratt & Whitney team has worked diligently to develop a fleet management plan."

Shares in RTX were down by 7.9 per cent, or $7.88, at $76.90 at the close in New York last night.

Wizz Air, the Budapest-based airline, said that because of the recall it faced a potential 10 per cent fall in capacity during the second half of the year. Wizz, whose shares fell 89½p, or 4.4 per cent, to £19.54½ last night, said it would be seeking financial compensation.

> 'We will never compromise on the safe operation of our fleet'

Patrick Hosking



Chancellor's magic bullet to unlock pensions capital has a critical flaw

It took less than two minutes of parliamentary evidence last week to expose the awkward flaw in Jeremy Hunt's plans to "unlock" the capital in the nation's traditional pension funds. The chancellor is convinced that a substantial chunk of the £1.5 trillion of assets sitting in defined-benefit schemes could be diverted to more productive investment, such as British venture capital, infrastructure and growth businesses. Why couldn't these sleeping beasts of capitalism stop putting so much of their cash into dull, low-return government bonds and start taking more risk by backing entrepreneurs? It merely needed a bit more imagination and a tweak to the regulations and the tax rules, surely?

Tracy Blackwell, chief executive of Pension Insurance Corporation, illustrated the problem in evidence to MPs on the work and pensions select committee with one killer statistic: of the 9.6 million people in private sector defined-benefit schemes, only 786,000 are in schemes still open to new accrual. To put it more bluntly: the majority of defined-benefit schemes are closed and dying, just as certainly as their beneficiaries, now in their seventies, eighties and nineties. The most important thing for the trustees is to make sure the promised pensions are paid in full regardless of market movements, then switch off the lights. There is no cohort of younger members to bring in fresh flows and to take the strain in the event of a risk, such as a market crash.

By the way, of that minority of schemes still open, two alone — the Universities Superannuation Scheme and Railpen, the rail workers' scheme — account for 40 per cent of the total investment firepower. Both already invest heavily in just the kind of growth assets that Hunt wants to see backed. The existing rules aren't noticeably blunting their risk appetite.

That doesn't square with the narrative from parts of the City. "Pension funds have had their risk appetite kicked out of them," said the New Financial think tank, leading the charge for reform. It blames accounting rules and bad regulation. The truth is more nuanced. Trustees sensibly dialled down their risk appetites from the moment schemes started to be closed decades ago.

To the extent that regulation hastened closures it has a point, but defined-benefit schemes were being closed anyway because they were seen as unaffordable and badly structured. Firms favoured long-servers and well-paid managers at the expense of new joiners and low earners. Employer paternalism started to go out of the window 40 years ago, whether it was the provision of luncheon vouchers or defined-benefit pensions. The City is lamenting this change, but I don't recall anyone at the time opposing defined-benefit scheme closures. Most in the City were rather keen on them because they tended to produce a nice pop to the share price of the sponsoring company.

The improvement in the health of defined-benefit schemes over the past two years is not going to spur them to more adventurous investment, but it will make them even keener to transfer into insurance companies via buyouts. Employers have spent £200 billion shoring up defined-benefit schemes over the past ten years and cannot wait to wash their hands of them.



For the minority of employers that do have open schemes, the decision is more balanced. There is a much stronger case to take risk, especially if surpluses can be used to boost pensions to members or to sweeten returns to shareholders.

We tend to think of defined-benefit pensions as "gold-plated". Not always. Private sector schemes limit annual pension rises, usually to 2.5 per cent or 5 per cent, which is no good when inflation lets rip. Abrdn calculates that defined-benefit members have seen a 12 per cent real-terms decline in incomes in the past two years. Trustees will have to start considering whether they need to sweeten pensions a bit more.

Employers could do better by letting schemes "run on" rather than handing them to insurers, according to Serkan Bektas, from Insight Investment, who was also giving evidence to MPs. He reckons a defined-benefit scheme constructing a bulletproof, liability-matching portfolio could do it 10 per cent to 15 per cent cheaper than the buyout option. Employers and trustees need to stop seeing buyout as the holy grail, he says. To change that attitude will need an almighty shove, both to guidance from The Pensions Regulator and reductions to the 35 per cent rate at which pension fund surpluses are taxed.

The Pension Protection Fund has declared itself "enthusiastic" to act as a kind of super-consolidator for defined-benefit schemes. Employers could hand them over to the fund, which would use its scale and expertise to keep them invested in riskier assets. It reckons it could push £60 billion into growth assets if it swallowed up the UK's smallest 4,500 schemes — but who would pick up the tab if things go wrong? Only the government has that kind of underwriting firepower. However, asking taxpayers, who mostly languish in inferior defined-contribution schemes, to cross-subsidise the lucky few in defined-benefit would be politically explosive.

Hunt's proposals could move the dial for a few open defined-benefit schemes, but for the majority they are a non-starter. It may be that the swing to surplus of so many schemes is not as permanent as everyone imagines. New shocks will come. It is less than a year since defined-benefit schemes were teetering on the edge of oblivion because of their exposure to that flawed magic sauce, liability-driven investment. Now they are plumply in surplus. Nigel Mills, the pension committee's resident sceptic, wonders whether the health of schemes might be down to "some quirky actuarial sweet spot" that won't last. Who would bet their life savings on him being wrong?

"Using taxpayers to subsidise schemes could backfire"

Patrick Hosking is Financial Editor of The Times

Mehreen Khan

The Bank of England has to wake up to another huge challenge

Last week Andrew Bailey faced his regular grilling by MPs on the Treasury select committee — and made an odd admission. "I really have no time for getting into this 'woke' debate. I don't really know what 'woke' means," the governor of the Bank of England, said. His remarks, made in the context of questions about diversity in the Bank's recruitment policies, are the first public admission from the governor that his institution is caught up in a visceral culture war.

One of the most common criticisms of the Bank is not about its policy failures around inflation, but a fixation on the institution's promotion of ultra-liberal values that irk right-wing commentators and some conservatives. It's a narrative that echoes Liz Truss's broadside against the Bank during her brief premiership and one that cites the Bank's use of heat pumps, a museum exhibition on slavery and the installation of some gender-neutral lavatories as part of a broader institutional rot.

'The Bank will come under huge political pressure to cut interest rates next year in the run-up to the election'

The softer form of this dog-whistling rails against the Bank's climate-change agenda (which Bailey has rowed back on) and apparent groupthink on the monetary policy committee, where diversity (meaning women and ethnic minorities) is promoted over and above the conservatives' sacred diversity of thought. Even Lord King of Lothbury, a former governor, has indulged in this criticism.

The Bank is struggling to counteract these narratives with a rebuttal. Bailey and his colleagues are caught in a war that they don't know how to fight, let alone win.

Institutional criticism of central banks is nothing new, but it has usually been the preserve of the left, which historically has viewed monetary institutions as opaque, technocratic bodies that favour the interest of financial markets over workers. This discourse still exists, but it has been drowned out and even co-opted by conservatives who now hold up central bankers as all-powerful figures that can make or break governments. And the culture war isn't simply noise: it could affect the Bank's credibility and its future policy choices.

Bailey's denial that he was in any way "woke" was in part related to questions about Nigel Farage's forced exit from Coutts over his political views. That strikes at the heart of a battle the Bank faces when selling its idea of a digital pound to the public at large.

The digital currency project is already a lightning rod for conspiracy theories about governments controlling people's access to money. Online commentators — a mélange of libertarians, vaccine sceptics and cryptocurrency enthusiasts — see central bank digital currencies as Trojan horse financial instruments that will monitor citizens' transactions and will cut off those who fail to comply with political commands, such as vaccine mandates.

Bank officials, who are sensitive to the charge that they are part of a deep-state apparatus, scoff at the allegations but have little in the way of a counter-narrative. The digital pound project faces a barrage of bad publicity that the Bank seems ill-prepared for.

This failure to create narratives also threatens the Bank's monetary policy. Ratesetters are trying to convince investors and the public that they will keep interest rates "higher for longer" to vanquish inflation. That is a tough sell when the economy is heading for a slowdown next year and as a million homeowners prepare to refix their mortgages at rates that will cost an extra £3,000 a year.

The Bank will come under huge political pressure to cut interest rates next year in the run-up to a general election. A failure to loosen policy will create the impression that Bailey and his colleagues are trying to scupper the Tories' electoral hopes. The Bank will need to find answers, fast.

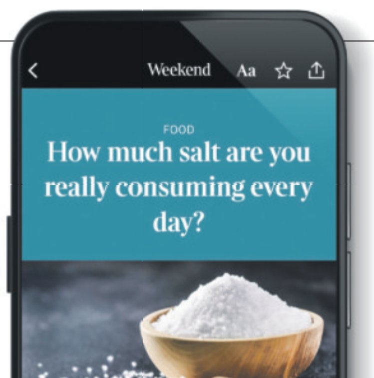
Mehreen Khan is Economics Editor of The Times

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Business

Restaurant Group's £7.5m dowry to Chiquito buyer

Dominic Walsh

The Restaurant Group called time on its lossmaking leisure division yesterday, announcing a deal under which it is paying the Big Table Group £7.5 million to take the business off its hands.

Big Table, the operator of brands such as Las Iguanas, Banana Tree and Café Rouge, is acquiring 75 restaurants, together with the central costs and 3,000 employees needed to run the sites, most of which trade under the Frankie & Benny's and Chiquito brands.

The buyer, owned by Epiris, the private equity firm, is paying a nominal £1 for the business, but it will receive a cash sum of £7.5 million in recognition that it is taking on a business that made a loss last year of £65 million.

Despite the unusual nature of the deal, with the vendor paying a dowry to the seller, it went down well with the market, sending shares in The Restaurant Group up by 3.6 per cent, or 1¾p, to 49¼p. It not only removes the group's weakest business and about £50 million of lease liabilities, but also allows it to focus on its successful Wagamama, Brunning & Price and concessions units. The sale excludes the 17-outlet Barburrito estate.

Under pressure from activist investors led by Oasis Management, The Restaurant Group has been looking "to further accelerate margin accretion and deleveraging". The group said it continued to "actively explore its strategic options" and some analysts believe it may switch its attention to selling its airport and railway concession business. James Wheatcroft, an analyst at Jefferies, said: "Further divisional disposals are possible, which would drive more deleveraging and, potentially, dividends."

The Restaurant Group, formerly known as City Centre Restaurants, entered the pandemic with about 650 sites in the UK, plus a largely franchised overseas Wagamama business.

The exit will be hailed as another victory by Oasis, now the group's biggest shareholder with a stake of almost 18 per cent stake. It has accused the company's board of "strategic stagnation" and has called on it to "realign its priorities" and address its poor shareholder experience. It said The Restaurant Group had presided over "one of the worst-performing share prices of any UK leisure company" and criticised the "unpalatable" pay of Andy Hornby, 56, who became chief executive in 2019.

Its calls for management change secured partial success last week, when Ken Hanna, 70, the chairman, said he would be leaving at next year's annual meeting.

Big Table, born from the ashes of the administration of Casual Dining Group in 2020, is expected to convert some of The Restaurant Group sites to its recently acquired Banana Tree brand, a pan-Asian concept with 15 sites. The deal will increase its estate from about 160 outlets to more than 230.

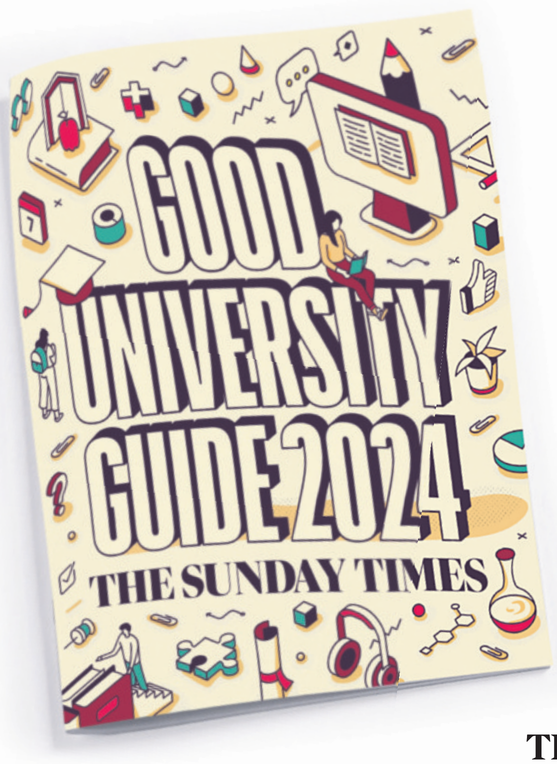
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China cashes in — thanks to Britain's tourist tax

Luxury retailers are choosing China over London as the "tourist tax" stifles a post-pandemic shopping resurgence, the head of a payments processing company has warned (Max Kendix writes).

Alan Holcroft, of Cegid, which

DX Group set to bed down with Silentnight's owner

Tom Howard

A Miami-based buyout fund is on the verge of succeeding with a near-£300 million takeover bid for DX Group, the British logistics company it has been circling for the past year.

HIG Capital, which also owns Silentnight, the UK mattress maker and retailer, has proposed an all-cash offer of 48.5p a share, which would value DX at about £295 million.

HIG has until October 9 to either firm up that offer or walk away from talks. If it goes ahead and formally approaches the DX board, the directors have said that the bid is at a level at which they would be "minded to recommend [it] to DX shareholders".

In anticipation of a deal being struck, DX shares closed up 6½p, or 18 per cent, to 43p, near the dearest they have been since a huge profit warning almost eight years ago.

The Slough-based DX Group was founded in 1975 as Document Exchange and, at first, specialised in couriering contracts, deeds and official documents for the legal sector.

It still delivers confidential documents but has expanded its offering to include awkward-to-handle parcels, valuable packages as well as letters. Ikea uses its 2-Man service when delivering bulky furniture to customers.

It is thought that HIG first started showing an interest in DX last year while the company's shares were suspended, since when it has made a "series of proposals".

This year a report in The Sunday Times forced DX to confirm that it had received a claim from its rival Tuffnells. The claim alleged that a few DX employees had asked their former colleagues at Tuffnells to leak "confidential competitor information".

A confidential settlement, which was without any admission of liability, was reached in June.

BETTY LAURA ZAPATA/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES



Revenues have fallen for retailers in London since VAT-free shopping ended

works with about a thousand retailers, including Hugo Boss, L'Oréal and Lacoste, said the scrapping of tax-free shopping for tourists had been an "own goal" for Britain.

Big rebate companies, such as GlobalBlue and PlanetTaxFree, advertise heavily in China to lure tourists to tax-free shopping destinations in Europe, offering "cashback" rebates through apps.

"When this Chinese middle class with a lot of disposable income wanted to come to Europe for the first time, they chose London for its tax-free shopping," Holcroft said, "but since the UK scrapped this, the traffic of international tax-free shoppers coming to Europe was significantly down on pre-Covid levels. Retailers saw the reduction."

Cegid recorded a fourfold increase in formal inquiries from European-based retailers wanting to open shops in China last year.

In January 2021 the Treasury scrapped a scheme enabling VAT refunds for shoppers from outside the European Union as part of a post-Brexit consultation scheme, saying it was a "costly relief which does not benefit the whole of Great Britain equally".

Holcroft, 52, said: "The knock-on impact is a less diverse high street — Oxford Street's long-closed flagships are a case in point —as well as fewer jobs and empty stores not generating revenue through business rates that would have fed back into the local economy."

Mulberry closed its shop on Bond Street in London this year after sales and customer numbers plummeted, blaming the closure on the end of VAT-free shopping. At the same time, its revenue in China has surged.

A report by the Centre for Economics and Business Research has suggested that revenue from restoring tax-free shopping would outweigh the losses associated with VAT refunds by £2.3 billion.

The Treasury disputes this. It said: "The scheme could cost British taxpayers around £2 billion a year. Fewer than one in ten non-EU visitors used the previous scheme, showing it's not a significant attraction for tourists."

Activist investor spreads bets with IG Group stake

Ben Martin Banking Editor

An activist hedge fund that last year called on TP Icap to sell itself has built a stake in Britain's oldest spread-betting company.

The move by the California-based Phase 2 Partners to amass a holding in IG Group comes at an uncertain time for the FTSE 250 company, which is seeking a new boss after June Felix stood down in the summer after five years in charge.

Felix, 66, had sought to diversify the business by significantly expanding its presence in the vast American options and futures market through its $1 billion acquisition of Tastytrade, a Chicago-based derivatives platform, two years ago. Its pre-tax profits have surged under Felix, climbing to £449.9 million in the 12 months to the end of May this year, up from £280.8 million before she became its chief executive.

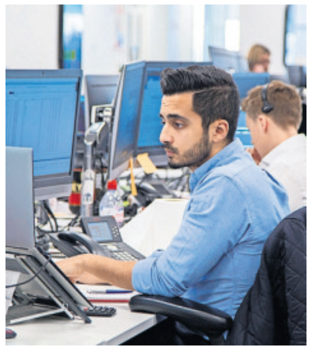
However, despite this growth, IG's stock market valuation has been disappointing. Initiatives to buy back shares have failed to galvanise the stock, with IG's shares down by about 15 per cent since the start of the year. Those shares rose by 9½p, or 1.4 per cent, to close at 667½p last night to value the business at almost £2.7 billion. Investors will get an update on IG's performance on Thursday, when it is due to publish figures for its first quarter.

Phase 2 Partners focuses on investments in financial services companies. It rose to prominence last year when it revealed a stake in TP Icap, the world's biggest interdealer broker, and urged the British company to take "decisive steps immediately to benefit long-suffering shareholders".

Justin Hughes, the hedge fund's founding partner, argued that TP Icap's share price was "woefully" undervaluing its assets and that the business should try to find a buyer. Despite Phase 2's campaign, the broker has remained independent. Its shares, which reached almost 370p in December 2019, stood at 165p last night, up 3p, or 1.8 per cent, on the day.

IG is one of the leading sellers of spread-bets and contracts-for-difference, which are derivatives that allow amateur and professional traders to make risky leveraged bets on price movements in financial markets. It was a pioneer of the industry when it was founded in 1974.

Felix went on medical leave in July and last month the company said that she would not return. Charlie Rozes, 55, IG's finance chief, has stepped up to become its acting chief executive while the board decides on a permanent appointment.



IG Group's products allow traders to bet on shifts in financial markets

Hughes said that he wanted Rozes to be considered for the top job. He said there were areas that IG could improve, including its cost base, where "they probably have some excess expenses lingering from Covid. Let's see what the new chief executive brings." He did not disclose the size of Phase 2's stake in IG.

A spokesman for IG did not comment on Phase 2's stakebuilding. Rozes said in July that the spread-better would "continue to look for opportunities to achieve even greater cost-efficiency".

Losses triple at scandal-hit WANdisco

James Hurley

Losses have widened and revenue has slumped at WANdisco as the crisis-hit software company continues to count the cost of an alleged sales fraud.

Turnover tumbled to $3 million in the six months to the end of June, from $5.8 million a year ago, while bookings — the total value of contracts signed — fell to $2.8 million, from $7.3 million. Pre-tax, half-year losses rose from $7 million a year ago to $22.5 million.

WANdisco, which from next month will be known as Cirata, said its customers had paused "commercial activities with the company due to the uncertainty surrounding the business".

Shares in the data software specialist were suspended in March after it said it had discovered a sales and accounting scam. An investigation by FRP Advisory, the consultancy, concluded that about $15 million of recorded revenue and $115 million of sales bookings linked with a senior employee had been illegitimate.

As of the end of June, the group's net assets were worthless, the company said, but it completed an emergency $30 million fundraising on July 4 and now has enough cash to keep trading for at least 12 months. It returned to Aim, London's junior stock market, in July.

Stephen Kelly, 61, the chief executive who was drafted in to turn around the company, said: "Sadly, very little from the past deserves preservation, except for the excellence of the technology, strong engineering, marquee customers and loyal committed colleagues. Nearly every other aspect of our business is in the process of necessary radical change."

$6.9m

'Exceptional costs' including PR advice
Company report

He said WANdisco had conducted a "root and branch" review of "everything we need to do to create a world-class growth company worthy of its investors, customers and colleagues". It has cut more than 40 per cent of its staff, to 112, and is prepared to "further significantly reduce the cost base during the coming year" if necessary.

The business suffered $6.9million in exceptional costs related to the scandal, including emergency fundraising, legal advice and public relations fees.

Full-year bookings are expected to be between $7.1 million and $8.8 million, down from $11.4 million last year.

Tom Kennedy, a senior analyst at Megabuyte, said that bosses clearly had "been working hard to steady the ship and have made reasonable progress on several key areas, including the Hail Mary fundraise.

"However, despite these efforts, we reiterate that, given remaining cash reserves, continued cash burn and limited scope to reduce costs further, WANdisco has its work cut out to survive long-term."

Shares in WANdisco fell a further 5¼p, or 7.9 per cent, to 61p yesterday.

City law firm prepares to make 'significant' job cuts

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

At least 19 lawyers will lose their jobs at the headquarters of one of the City's largest international law firms in the latest sign that deals are slowing.

It is understood that CMS will start a redundancy consultation that will result in significant cuts to the number of associate solicitors in its corporate department.

The firm is one of the ten largest legal practices in terms of annual revenue in Britain and has been at the forefront of expansion in the European Union over the past 20 years. Six years ago it concluded one of the biggest mergers in the London legal market.

Last month, CMS announced a 6 per cent rise in revenue to nearly £1.6 billion, but that was well down on the 18 per cent growth recorded in the previous 12 months.

One City commentator said the firm was "over-leveraged" and had "underperformed" over the past year. CMS declined to comment on its redundancy plans, but it is understood that the cutbacks are going ahead. The job losses will be the biggest hit taken by a domestic firm in the City so far in the present downturn in the deals market.

This year it emerged that two American firms with significant outposts in the Square Mile had instigated cutbacks in their international offices. Dechert revealed plans to cut 5 per cent of its staff in May, a month before Reed Smith announced that it was losing 30 lawyers and 20 support staff.

The shadow hanging over many City law firms is the contracting mergers and acquisitions market, which is the lifeblood of corporate departments. A week ago, figures from the Office of National Statistics showed that deals in the second quarter of the financial year were "slightly subdued", with 450 cross-border and domestic deals completed, a fall of 76 on a year before.

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UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-5.83	...
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-11.35	...

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2139.75	...	+26.79	...
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	-0.48	...
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	-0.46	...
European Growth R Acc ‡@	420.73	...	+6.18	1.77
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-0.07	...
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	345.89	...	+2.80	...
Global Income R Acc ‡@	162.23	...	+1.85	...
Global Income R Inc ‡@	99.75	...	+1.13	...
Global Select R Acc ‡@	153.21	...	+0.71	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	61.39	...	+0.23	6.46
Income R Acc ‡@	508.08	...	+4.43	3.97
Income R Inc ‡@	218.10	...	+1.90	4.09
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	63.19	...	+0.44	5.05
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	89.58	...	-0.09	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	94.57	...	-0.09	3.97
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	48.65	...	-0.05	4.07
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	94.40	...	-0.08	4.07
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	48.41	...	-0.04	4.15
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	733.00	...	+8.07	2.13
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1783.63	...	+6.75	1.54
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	707.00	...	+5.18	...

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.70	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	+0.10	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	3020.00	...	+2.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	...	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	201.60	...	+0.40	...
UK Growth Inc ‡@	205.80	...	+0.30	...
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1803.00	...	+1.00	...
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	249.30	...	+1.70	...

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	+6.00	...
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-2.00	...

UK/Global Investment Companies

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	+0.24	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+4.10	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+2.20	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-17.60	2.30

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	208.00	...	+1.20	1.69
Sus Leaders ‡@	771.10	...	+3.20	...
UK Growth ‡@	608.00	...	+2.40	...
UK Income ‡@	199.90	...	+1.80	5.04

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.35	...

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3681.93	...	+18.40	0.99

COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.31	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-0.50	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1228.00	...	-3.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.64	...	+0.02	1.78
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	419.00	...	+3.00	...
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	301.00	...	-1.50	...
High Inc Trst @	11.17	11.77	+0.03	5.41
Max Inc Bond ‡@	43.08	...	+0.06	3.90
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ‡@	888.40	...	+1.00	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	464.60	...	+1.20	0.04
Strategic Bd ‡@	193.30	...	+0.10	1.33
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+2.00	...
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	965.90	...	+4.30	0.20

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	82.33	...	-0.11	4.33
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	325.80	...	+3.00	2.06
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	335.30	...	-0.30	...
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	117.00	...	+0.90	5.13
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	213.60	...	+1.10	...
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	268.60	...	+1.30	...

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2315.00	...	+10.00	...
American ‡@	5662.00	...	+6.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	568.00	...	+2.70	...
European ‡@	3490.00	...	+10.00	0.83
Extra Income ‡@	21.76	...	-0.01	6.06
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5628.00	...	+16.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2924.00	...	+1.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan ‡@	597.90	...	+1.20	0.74
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	41.58	...	+0.12	4.16
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	-0.95	...
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	28.02	...	-0.04	4.99
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	128.92	...	+0.90	...
Special Sits ‡@	4451.00	...	+34.00	...
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	...

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	31.62	...	-0.03	3.51
Ethical ‡@	113.40	...	...	...
European ‡@	112.80	...	+0.80	1.94
Far Eastern ‡	111.30	...	...	3.42
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	136.00	...	+0.70	...
Intl Gwth ‡	131.90	...	+0.10	...
Japanese ‡	75.41	...	+0.09	...
North Amer ‡	160.20	...	-0.30	0.35
Smaller Cos ‡@	101.20	...	+0.30	1.62
Special Sits ‡@	48.71	...	+0.36	...
UK Equity Inc ‡@	90.69	...	+0.74	3.99
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	70.31	...	+0.08	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	78.90	...	+0.51	...
UK Growth ‡@	82.63	...	+0.60	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	991.67	...	-0.37	1.24
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	785.97	...	-0.29	2.45
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1200.46	...	+8.34	2.63
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	747.78	...	+5.19	2.70
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	278.45	...	+2.11	...
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	124.35	...	+0.94	...
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	282.16	...	+1.42	3.62
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	168.02	...	+0.85	3.07
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	706.06	...	+5.06	...
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	350.81	...	+2.51	...
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	151.05	...	+0.59	1.88
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	115.47	...	+0.46	1.92
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	488.89	...	-0.74	3.48
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	296.93	...	-0.44	3.61

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	244.36	...	+0.43	1.19
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	-0.14	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	262.36	...	-0.29	5.12
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	99.93	...	-0.10	3.56
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+1.62	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+0.24	...
Income Acc ‡@	709.00	...	+6.88	4.20
Income Inc ‡@	284.21	...	+2.76	4.34
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	125.05	...	+0.79	4.09
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	144.34	...	+1.15	...
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	62.31	...	+0.49	...
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	144.34	...	+1.15	...
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	62.31	...	+0.49	...

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	991.67	...	-0.37	1.24
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	785.97	...	-0.29	2.45
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	+0.27	0.40
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	+0.22	0.34
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	+4.05	...
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	+3.39	...

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	...
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	...
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	...
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	...
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	0.12
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	...
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	...
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	...
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	...

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-0.12	...

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	457.01	...	+2.06	2.32
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	195.90	...	-0.34	3.23
High Income Inc ‡@	311.13	...	+3.40	4.06
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	405.46	...	+2.26	3.32
Income Inc ‡@	1229.68	...	+11.03	3.60
Money Acc ‡@	94.44	...	+0.03	...
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	89.56	...	+0.06	6.27
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	-0.24	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	905.80	...	+7.68	...
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1261.79	...	+3.39	...
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	+0.04	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	745.08	...	-2.87	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	699.80	...	+5.42	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	-3.81	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	371.46	...	+0.41	1.91
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	231.18	...	+0.26	1.93
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	122.11	...	-0.30	0.51
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	128.67	...	-0.32	0.01
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	320.44	...	-0.05	2.89
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	66.56	...	-0.01	4.32
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	114.03	...	-0.03	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	63.19	...	-0.01	...
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	145.32	...	+0.65	...
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	184.35	...	-0.24	5.12
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	68.91	...	-0.09	7.00
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-0.05	5.42
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-1.25	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+4.03	0.82
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+3.00	0.82
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+29.78	1.25
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+1.95	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-1.14	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	234.02	...	-1.04	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	317.83	...	-0.50	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1289.51	...	+1.19	...
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	178.44	...	+0.91	0.92
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	339.23	...	+1.18	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	261.87	...	+0.91	0.21
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	263.11	...	-0.61	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+0.43	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.01	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	166.87	...	-0.04	0.92
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.19	1.96
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.09	3.32
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.44	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2650.52	...	+16.10	...
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4310.33	...	+10.25	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	3866.08	...	+9.20	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1448.98	...	+19.09	...
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	519.42	...	+6.85	...

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	109.90	...	-0.10	2.50
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	73.40	...	+0.08	5.88
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	278.30	...	+0.80	3.25
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	134.80	...	+0.40	3.31
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1058.00	...	...	0.30
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	190.30	...	...	0.77
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	300.20	...	+2.00	1.16
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2330.00	...	+17.00	0.86
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	27.74	...	-0.01	4.50
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4297.00	...	+1.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	64.34	...	+0.32	3.34
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	3363.00	...	+14.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	113.93	...	+0.78	2.96
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	161.90	...	+0.60	0.82
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	256.90	...	+0.20	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	142.70	...	...	3.27
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	186.80	...	-0.10	3.14
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	198.80	...	-0.30	2.20
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	53.62	...	-0.06	2.23
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	97.07	...	-0.16	3.18
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	172.20	...	+0.20	0.65
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	131.70	...	+0.90	...
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	-1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.01	...
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	...	...
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1897.00	...	-5.00	...



JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	+2.20	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+3.00	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+4.70	...
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+17.40	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+35.00	...
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.10	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.29	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.70	...
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.50	...
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+1.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+11.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+6.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+16.00	...
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+15.00	...
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+17.30	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	+12.00	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.40	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.13	1.14
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.08	1.14
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-2.20	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+4.30	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+3.10	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	+0.60	...
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	+0.07	...
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	-0.20	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	-0.48	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+7.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+2.00	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+7.00	0.34
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+3.50	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+1.77	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+25.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+14.00	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.71	...	-0.01	...
Distribution and Growth ‡@	97.28	...	-0.14	2.67
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-31.23	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	449.07	...	+0.80	...
European ‡@	2902.49	...	+3.10	...
Financial Opps ‡@	719.02	...	+7.82	1.13
Income Trust ‡@	491.70	...	+5.68	4.59
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	232.33	...	-0.58	3.65
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	553.55	...	-2.50	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	340.28	...	-0.04	3.12
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	394.23	...	-2.62	...
UK Growth ‡@	256.03	...	+0.51	0.89
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	208.56	...	+2.27	2.24

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	...
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	-2.70	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	531.10	...	+3.60	...
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	339.70	...	+2.40	2.49
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	128.10	...	-0.20	2.62
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	58.81	...	-0.09	2.65
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	108.70	...	...	0.83
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	108.40	...	+0.60	0.04
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	...
High Inc Acc ‡@	125.20	...	+0.20	5.57
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	73.34	...	+0.07	1.68
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	195.50	...	-0.20	3.09
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	...
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	345.50	...	+2.50	...
UK Index Dist ‡@	164.10	...	+1.10	...
US Ind Acc ‡@	870.90	...	+2.30	0.86
Worldwide Acc ‡@	338.10	...	+0.60	0.80

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1395.74	...	+12.98	6.08

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	-3.39	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	-3.00	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	650.32	...	+5.48	5.90
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	71.00	...	-0.22	3.28
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	38.89	...	+0.03	5.90
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	107.45	...	-0.52	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	74.59	...	+0.56	...
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.71	...	+0.01	3.48
UK Select A Inc ‡	2677.73	...	+19.77	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	32.56	...	-0.04	4.34
Dividend Inc ‡	49.72	...	+0.56	6.47
Recovery A Inc ‡	103.34	...	+0.82	...
Sml Cos Inc ‡	317.33	...	+1.03	2.73

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	138.40	...	+0.14	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	84.08	84.08	+0.19	4.60
High Income Acc	241.10	241.10	+0.50	4.47
UK 100 Comp Acc @	454.20	454.20	+1.00	2.98
UK 100 Cos @	218.30	218.30	+0.50	3.05
UK Select Pflo @	328.10	328.10	-2.10	3.29
UK Selection Port Acc @	690.40	690.40	-4.60	3.63
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	947.50	947.50	+0.60	1.54
Wwide Mgd @	548.60	548.60	+0.40	0.56

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	785.37	...	+5.09	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	780.48	...	+5.04	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	936.82	...	+2.18	4.29
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	851.75	...	+1.98	4.42
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	935.06	...	+2.18	4.29
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	850.15	...	+1.97	4.42
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	938.59	...	+1.25	1.80
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	911.92	...	+1.22	1.82
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	937.05	...	+1.24	1.74
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	911.64	...	+1.21	1.74
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1325.23	...	-2.65	4.02
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1866.49	...	-3.78	3.99
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1415.58	...	-2.87	4.10
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	14042.12	...	-29.42	0.76
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1633.28	...	-0.51	0.74
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3828.29	...	-8.02	0.77
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1553.04	...	-0.49	0.75
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	588.39	...	+0.67	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	588.39	...	+0.67	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	584.93	...	+0.65	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	584.93	...	+0.65	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1230.02	...	-1.87	0.52
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1299.66	...	-4.26	...
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1321.39	...	-4.34	...
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1227.19	...	-1.87	0.38
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1329.51	...	-4.34	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	118.65	...	-0.09	3.72
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	91.52	...	-0.07	3.80
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2521.11	...	-2.04	3.46
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1290.85	...	-1.04	3.55
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	935.54	...	-0.47	3.25
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	880.97	...	-0.44	3.34
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	930.42	...	-0.48	3.06
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	880.56	...	-0.45	3.12
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1569.33	...	+6.16	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	896.69	...	+5.65	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1666.88	...	+6.50	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	936.67	...	+5.83	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	+0.40	...
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	229.60	...	-0.40	1.78
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	192.50	...	-0.20	5.25
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+0.10	...
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	262.80	262.80	+2.60	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	461.40	...	-0.40	...
UK Growth Inc ‡@	243.00	...	-0.20	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+4.40	...
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	1.42
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	+0.02	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	0.56
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-21.63	...
Mutual Far Eastern	881.15	929.97	-1.89	1.17
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+6.23	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-10.35	...
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	-7.28	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	+1.31	...

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	+0.80	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	...
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	...
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	+1.30	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	+1.10	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3319.00	...	-6.00	2.14

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	386.20	...	+1.90	...
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	191.30	...	+1.00	...

UK and Income Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	276.40	...	+0.50	2.82
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	100.70	...	+0.20	2.86
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	367.60	...	+1.10	1.85
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	237.40	...	+0.30	...
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	68.17	...	+0.10	...
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	377.20	...	+1.50	3.98
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	114.00	...	+0.40	4.09
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	186.30	...	+0.30	3.80
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	79.88	...	+0.11	3.88
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	196.80	...	+1.00	...
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2269.00	...	-1.00	...

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	426.60	...	+2.10	...
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	190.20	...	+0.90	...

UK and Income Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.90	...
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.30	...
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.30	...
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	...	...

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	127.10	...	+0.70	...
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	...	...

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	87.57	...	...	1.43
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	48.68	...	...	1.44
AAA Income Acc ‡@	95.57	...	...	1.84
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	204.40	...	-1.20	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	152.40	...	-0.20	3.47
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	49.63	...	-0.06	3.55
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	+3.90	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	148.10	...	...	1.39
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	195.50	...	...	1.36
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	169.70	...	-0.20	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	147.80	...	+0.10	4.55
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.39	...	+0.04	4.69
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	...	...
Managed Acc ‡@	358.20	...	+0.60	...
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	...	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.26	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	+1.70	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	+1.00	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	262.40	...	+1.80	4.66
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	68.91	...	+0.47	4.82
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	194.50	...	+0.30	...
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	...	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	...	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	712.10	...	-0.10	0.69

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	135.92	...	+0.09	...
Balanced A Inc ‡@	120.19	...	+0.08	...
Cautious A Acc ‡@	110.94	...	-0.02	1.93
Cautious A Inc ‡@	94.66	...	-0.01	1.95
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	335.89	...	+0.15	...
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	300.15	...	+0.13	...
Growth A Acc ‡@	343.80	...	+0.06	...
Income A Acc ‡@	246.72	...	+0.08	1.86
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	-0.28	...
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	-0.11	...

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	128.86	...	+1.11	1.51

Retail Shares (Class 1)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.54	...	+0.03	4.51
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	77.65	...	+0.26	3.68
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	51.64	...	-0.05	2.89
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	51.57	...	-0.06	2.56
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	40.85	...	-0.15	2.57
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.02	...	...	4.01
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	97.02	...	+0.60	3.56
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	91.08	...	+0.58	...
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	181.07	...	+1.15	1.90
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	66.75	...	+0.49	4.36
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	133.18	...	+0.98	...
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	336.88	...	+1.01	...

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	891.40	891.40	+0.80	0.96
European	210.70	219.40	+1.00	...

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
120.11	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	90.11	–1.02	0.69	1.20
108.03	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	74.09	–1.33	...	1.35
118.53	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	81.01	–1.45	...	1.35
112.12	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	74.40	–1.51	...	1.33
149.39	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	98.85	–1.98	1.39	1.29
114.09	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	69.26	–1.73	...	1.26
117.10	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	68.39	–1.78	...	1.26
132.13	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	74.82	–2.15	...	1.19
126.92	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	66.90	–2.17	...	1.11
129.79	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	66.43	–2.34	...	1.08
148.46	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	69.85	–2.68	...	0.88
108.35	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	78.99	–1.07	...	1.29
108.18	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	76.44	–1.21	...	1.34
124.37	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	87.66	–1.39	0.87	1.35
105.10	95.63	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	97.36	– .07	...	1.19
112.78	99.63	Tr IL 1¼% 27	101.87	– .18	1.34	0.80
107.49	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	97.06	– .22	...	0.74
107.59	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	96.58	– .24	...	0.76
351.63	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	335.90	–1.03	1.92	0.66
110.40	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	96.54	– .41	...	0.57
122.00	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	105.33	– .51	1.19	0.65
116.81	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	99.50	– .58	...	0.80
258.74	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	239.02	–1.45	1.02	0.83
110.05	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	90.14	– .68	...	0.92
125.95	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	101.79	– .79	1.16	0.99
109.66	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	85.87	– .79	...	1.12
118.43	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	92.32	– .89	...	1.14
109.65	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	83.31	– .92	...	1.16
105.03	97.72	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	98.49	+ .03	...	3.04
380.26	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	377.36	– .04	1.43	2.51

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
115.49	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	92.07	–1.07	4.62	4.82
61.15	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	46.75	– .70	...	4.77
70.13	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	53.53	– .81	...	4.79
74.08	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	55.88	– .84	...	4.77
117.50	98.29	Tr 4¾% 38	100.64	– .75	4.72	4.69
72.59	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	61.01	– .57	...	4.72
111.29	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	94.63	– .74	4.49	4.73
117.52	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	91.84	–1.17	4.63	4.80
63.87	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	46.36	– .80	...	4.73
110.80	82.24	Tr 3¾% 52	84.14	–1.16	...	4.77
67.79	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	48.67	– .84	...	4.72
70.42	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	50.01	– .87	...	4.70
123.23	90.07	Tr 4¼% 55	92.25	–1.31	4.61	4.72
73.50	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	51.04	– .94	...	4.63
122.75	86.40	Tr 4% 60	88.51	–1.39	...	4.66
46.24	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	28.12	– .77	...	4.41
91.47	59.83	Tr 2½% 65	61.57	–1.17	...	4.57
53.35	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	37.77	– .71	...	4.72
112.08	91.30	Tr 4½% 40	94.08	– .84	...	4.76
71.44	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	57.95	– .64	...	4.73
98.61	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	79.92	– .89	...	4.81
117.12	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	96.54	– .91	4.66	4.78
102.68	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	82.51	– .95	...	4.82
107.61	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	71.91	–1.42	...	1.35
116.13	77.61	Tr 3½% 68	79.58	–1.45	...	4.58
70.95	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	44.54	–1.02	...	4.41
57.59	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	34.72	– .90	...	4.32
103.74	81.74	Tr 3¾% 53	83.72	–1.18	...	4.77

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
93.30	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	88.51	– .20	...	4.53
106.12	96.63	Tr 4¼% 27	98.83	– .28	4.30	4.55
87.24	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	82.76	– .21	...	4.50
93.52	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	87.30	– .26	...	4.43
91.05	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	87.73	– .14	...	4.66
103.82	95.72	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	97.85	– .18	...	4.82
95.52	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	91.76	– .13	...	4.61
110.66	94.67	Tr 4¼% 36	96.83	– .64	4.39	4.59
81.78	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	70.28	– .58	...	4.67
82.38	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	75.67	– .35	...	4.40
113.13	100.56	Tr 4¾% 30	102.20	– .43	4.65	4.39
79.47	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	72.54	– .38	...	4.41
83.95	73.06	Tr 1% 32	76.09	– .42	...	4.45
110.34	97.27	Tr 4¼% 32	99.00	– .52	4.29	4.39
101.14	88.88	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	90.65	– .50	...	4.48
79.92	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	71.43	– .46	...	4.48
113.35	97.71	Tr 4½% 34	99.69	– .59	4.51	4.54
73.11	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	64.20	– .49	...	4.56
116.96	104.85	Tr 6% 28	106.96	– .30	5.61	4.49
86.40	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	80.95	– .26	...	4.53
87.71	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	81.37	– .31	...	4.38
104.43	...	Tr 3¼% 38	89.97	– .67	...	4.72

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
94.97	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	93.08	– .07	...	4.83
97.82	92.80	Tr 2% 25	94.60	– .09	...	4.88
100.88	95.02	Tr 3½% 25	96.86	– .07	...	5.09
92.38	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	89.97	– .11	...	4.63
98.15	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	98.15	– .01	...	5.01
97.59	94.79	Tr 1% 24	97.57	– .02	...	5.09
99.57	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	97.80	– .04	...	5.09
94.34	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	93.81	– .05	...	4.94
104.69	99.24	Tr 5% 25	100.06	– .07	5.00	4.96

* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

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ANDY RAIN/EPA



Heathrow is back to its best, claims chief

The boss of Heathrow says the airport is "back to its best" after it handled more than 7.5 million passengers last month (Max Kendix writes).

The figure was up 25 per cent on the same month last year, but was 1.7 per cent below pre-pandemic levels.

The number of UK passengers using the west London airport, Britain's largest, remains about a fifth lower than in 2019, at 361,000, but travellers from North America, taking advantage of favourable currency exchange rates, boosted the figures, with nearly two million using Heathrow in August, up by a quarter on the same month last year.

The airport recorded 39,905 flights taking off and landing during August, 5 per cent lower than 2019 levels.

Heathrow is owned by a consortium led by Ferrovial, the Spanish infrastructure group. The governments of Qatar and China, as well as the pension scheme for Britain's university lecturers, are among the other shareholders.

Heathrow Airport Holdings unveiled losses of £139 million for the first half of this year, an improvement on the £321 million loss in the first six months of 2022 but far behind the £153 million profit in the same period before Covid in 2019.

The airport recorded an average security wait time of 90 seconds per passenger last month, despite the failure of the air traffic control system that prompted the cancellation of about 2,000 flights.

John Holland-Kaye, 58, its chief executive, said: "I am proud of the way colleagues across Team Heathrow made sure that passengers had a super start to their summer holidays, with record levels of passenger satisfaction and average security queue times of less than two minutes. Heathrow is back to its best."

Insolvency reforms will put companies under the spotlight

James Hurley

The government is planning to overhaul oversight of the insolvency industry by making companies subject to scrutiny for the first time.

The existing approach, with only individual insolvency practitioners subject to regulation, means that "regulators cannot hold firms accountable for failures", the Insolvency Service said. It said its plans would "transform the framework by closing a gap in regulatory coverage and offering greater protection for those using insolvency services".

Practitioners are regulated by one of four "recognised professional bodies", which are membership trade groups. While the rules governing practitioners are extensive, there have been claims that the professional bodies have not been proactive enough when policing members. The bodies are overseen by the Insolvency Service.

The government said the professional bodies would "continue to have oversight of the profession" after the "comprehensive reforms". It will seek to legislate to give the bodies the power to regulate firms, but the Insolvency Service said that in the meantime it would help them to take a tougher stance under existing powers.

There are also plans for the government to legislate to reserve the power to implement a single regulator "should that prove necessary".

The government said it would consult on a compensation scheme "for people affected by insolvency professionals' mistakes or misconduct", while a new public register would list all individuals and firms that are authorised to provide insolvency services and would show whether they were subject to sanctions by their regulator.

R3, the insolvency trade body, broadly welcomed the plans and said it was pleased the government had not pushed ahead with a single state regulator. However, Caroline Sumner, chief executive of R3, said she was concerned that a redress scheme would encourage a "wave of unsubstantiated claims".

Stephen Hunt, from Griffins insolvency practitioners, said the plan to scrutinise firms was a "logical step [that] aligns the profession with similar groups", such as audit and legal services. "It's a prelude to being able to intervene in failing practices and to target those that own insolvency businesses but fall outside of regulation." He said that included unregulated companies offering individual voluntary arrangements, or "IVA factories".

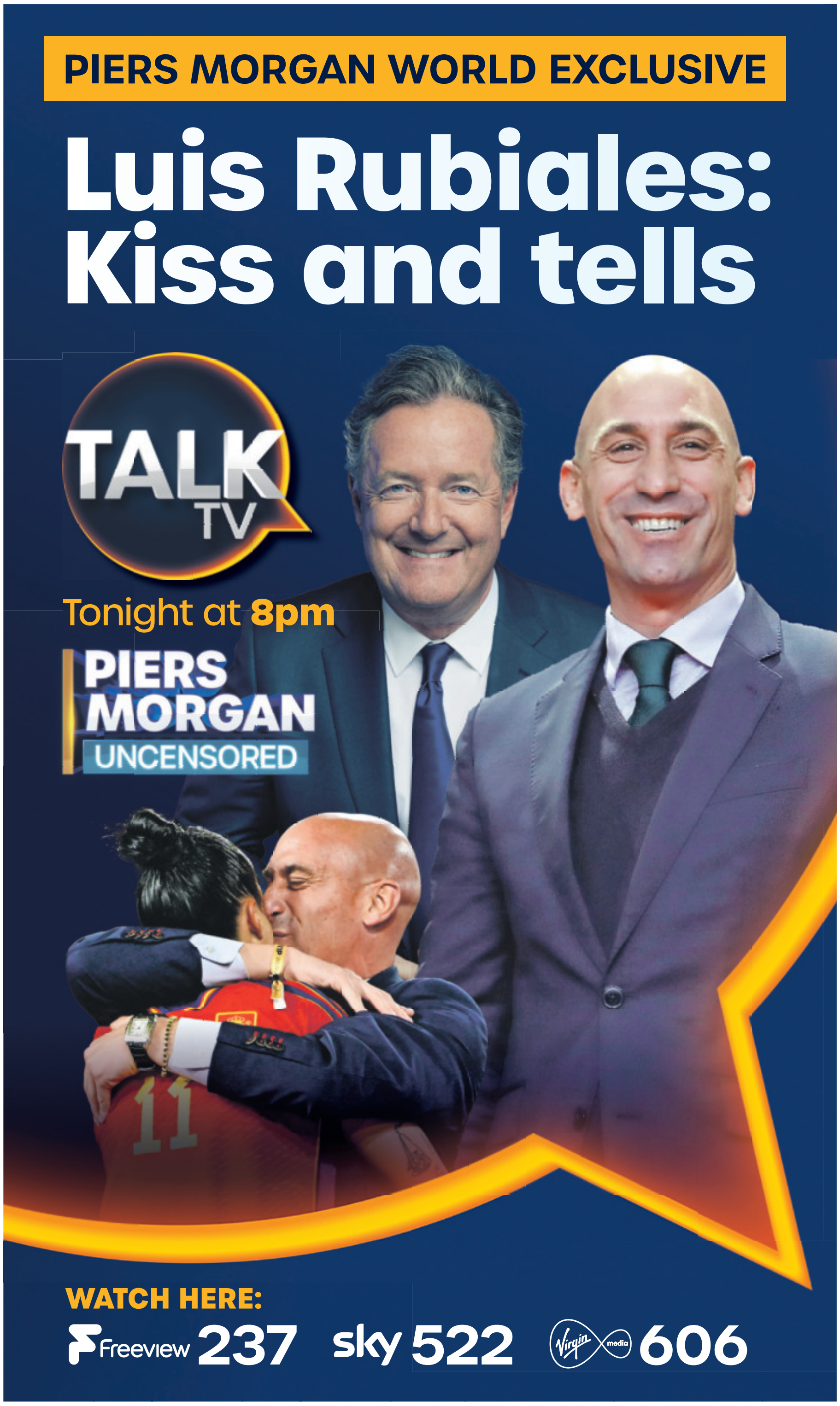


Caroline Sumner, head of the R3 insolvency trade body, has concerns about the scheme

These arrangements allow people to renegotiate their debts and pay back less than they owe. Such firms advertise to debtors and negotiate with lenders on their behalf. Concerns include misleading and unethical marketing that pushes too many people into taking the route, as well as opaque fees.

Frances Coulson, from Wedlake Bell, a law firm, said the changes would "enable regulators to deal with systemic failures, not just breaches by individuals".

Kevin Hollinrake, the minister for enterprise, markets and small business, said most practitioners did a "good job", but "there continue to be instances of poor conduct that have a direct impact on those closely involved".



Emma Powell **Tempus**
Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



Partnerships set to benefit investors

VISTRY

Market cap	Half-year rev
£3.12 billion	£1.56 billion

You can see why Vistry isn't willing to hang on for a recovery in the housing market, even by 2025. That was the proposed deadline for a decision on whether to stick with or hive off its private housebuilding business from its core affordable housing unit, if the share price is still in the doldrums.

By switching sites that had been earmarked for building homes for the open market to mixed-tenure development, Vistry will focus solely on partnership work, a lower-risk approach than trying to find a buyer for the private housebuilding business. The shift, under which 32 sites will be cut down to 27, should be completed by Christmas.

A near-13 per cent share price bump has closed the discount embedded against the book value forecast at the end of this year. That also leaves the shares trading at ten times forward earnings, the highest level since June 2021. Investors are betting that lower exposure to the open market will make profits more reliable.

There is some weight to that assumption. The partnership business develops sites with a mixture of open market, affordable and private rental homes, on behalf of housing associations, authorities and large residential landlords. Schemes are less capital-intensive than purely private house building because its partners stump up some of the funding. At least half of the plots are pre-sold, a benchmark that Vistry wants to increase to 65 per cent.

Housing associations typically sign-up two years in advance. Vistry is hoping to move towards a planning system, whereby private landlords commit five years ahead of time. Compare that with the open market, where visibility over revenue is minimal and housebuilders are at the mercy of affordability constraints.

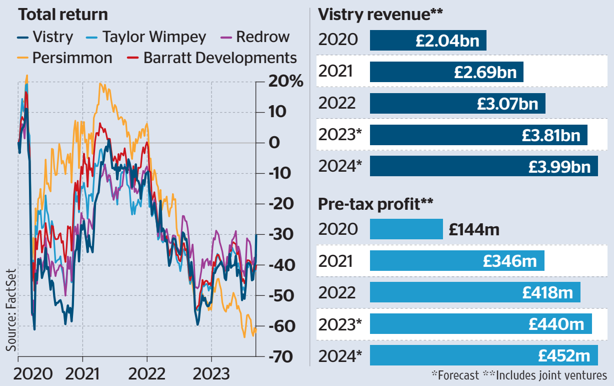
Vistry is hoping to boost its return on capital expenditure to 40 per cent. Tying up less capital also means shareholders should be in line for £1 billion in capital returns over the next three years, in ordinary dividends, special returns, share buybacks or a mixture of the three. Analysts at HSBC think that will break down as £660 million handed back in ordinary dividends and £340 million in surplus returns between next year and 2026, and 290p a share in ordinary dividends alone over the three years. That is in addition to returning the FTSE 250 constituent to a net cash position, reversing its net debt of £328 million at the end of June.

Its private housebuilding business has already been reduced to just under half of group revenue. Completions were down by just over a fifth in the first six months of the year, which contributed to an erosion of overall operating margin.

However, the new structure won't be free of challenges accompanying the housing cycle. About 35 per cent of completions will be sold on the open market. Private rental landlords account for roughly 10 per cent at present, a slice Greg Fitzgerald, Vistry's boss, hopes to increase to between 20 per cent and 30 per cent in time. Those institutional investors are hardly free from the funding constraints that have accompanied rapidly rising interest rates.

In rough times, the shift from the open market is an easier sell to investors. The trade-off is a lower operating margin, which Vistry is targeting at 12 per cent, down from the 14.7 per cent of last year. Revenue growth is also expected to be more subdued off a larger base, at 5 per cent to 8 per cent over the next three years, compared with a previous target of 10 per cent for the partnership unit. While builders' dividends have rapidly diminished, Vistry's promise of generous cash returns will become its biggest appeal.

Building for the future



ADVICE Hold
WHY Investors could be in line for generous dividends and share buybacks, but the shares trade at a premium to the sector

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WH SMITH

Market cap	Dividend yield
£1.81 billion	1.2%

What WH Smith has — and what most British retailers lack — is a visible flightpath to growth. It is pursuing rapid expansion in North American airports, a move that has charged its top line and has prompted the company to upgrade its forecasts for this year three times already.

Fourth-quarter trading figures were not accompanied by another boost to its predictions, however. That explains a cold response to its pre-close update. Another was sales growth for its North American travel business that was weaker than expected, increasing on an underlying basis by 3 per cent over the six months to the end of August. That, though, reflects the shape of the recovery in the global travel market.

In the United States, it is up against tough comparisons, a market that loosened travel restrictions earlier than other jurisdictions. A delayed recovery has been reflected in like-for-like sales growth of 27 per cent in the "rest of the world" as markets kept more stringent requirements in place for cross-border travellers for longer.

Its focus on airport expansion has put WH Smith less at the mercy of the fortunes of the British high street, as well as national rail strikes. Industrial action is unhelpful, but the division accounts for no more than 7 per cent of the total operating profit.

The company is not overstretching, either. A jump in the number of new stores opening worldwide, which should total 112 this year, means that capital expenditure is set to rise to £150 million, almost twice last's outlay, before falling back in 2024 to roughly £100 million. It had roughly £270 million in liquidity at the end of February, but it is also back generating cash, which analysts at Peel Hunt think will amount to £240 million. The retailer is now just above the top end of its target leverage range of between 0.75 and 1.25. That means there could be more cash returns when it announces full-year figures in November, according to analysts at RBC Capital.

Improving cash returns could provide another catalyst for WH Smith shares.

ADVICE Buy
WHY Expansion into international airports could provide durable growth

NEWS IN BRIEF

A passage from India

The Indian government will consider letting local businesses list on the London Stock Exchange, Jeremy Hunt said. Existing regulations prohibit Indian companies from listing directly on overseas exchanges, but the chancellor said that Indian ministers had promised to "explore the London Stock Exchange as an international destination for the direct listing of Indian companies". In 2020 Indian technology firms were said to be in talks with the exchange about floating, but plans were shelved amid domestic opposition.

Lovegrove joins Lazard

The former national security adviser to Boris Johnson is joining Lazard, one of the City's best-known investment banks. Sir Stephen Lovegrove has become a senior adviser at the firm. It marks a return to finance for Lovegrove, who was an investment banker at Morgan Grenfell and Deutsche Bank before becoming a civil servant in 2004. Lazard said Lovegrove "brings a deeply informed perspective on business and geopolitical topics developed over decades of experience".

'Too soon to cut rates'

Catherine Mann, the Bank of England policymaker, said it was too soon to stop raising interest rates, warning that cutting or keeping them at the present level could risk embedding high inflation into the economy. "I would rather err on the side of over-tightening. But if I am wrong, and inflation decelerates more quickly … I will not hesitate to cut rates," the monetary policy committee member told the Canadian Association for Business Economics.

Qualcomm chips deal

Qualcomm has signed a deal with Apple to supply 5G chips until at least 2026. The California-based company, with a stock market value of $122 billion, makes chips that give smartphones a means of accessing mobile data networks. It previously secured a supply deal with Apple in 2019 after the pair settled a legal battle. As part of the new deal, of which the financial details were not disclosed, Qualcomm will supply Apple with chips that will come out each year until 2026.

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	34663.72 (+87.13)
Nasdaq Composite	13917.89 (+156.37)
S&P 500	4487.46 (+29.97)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	32467.76 (-139.08)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	18096.45 (-105.62)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	738.89 (-0.20)
Sydney	
AO	7387.80 (+29.70)
Frankfurt	
DAX	15800.99 (+60.69)
Singapore	
Straits	3218.28 (+10.53)
Brussels	
BEL20	3687.96 (+32.26)
Paris	
CAC-40	7278.27 (+37.50)
Zurich	
SMI Index	10972.21 (+23.62)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4254.33 (+17.14)
London	
FTSE 100	7496.87 (+18.68)
FTSE 250	18522.44 (+59.25)
FTSE 350	4124.99 (+10.69)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3597.46 (+13.48)
FTSE All-Shares	4083.23 (+10.49)
FTSE Non Financials	4990.83 (+7.33)
techMARK 100	6424.61 (+7.41)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2510 (+0.0022)
Euro	1.1637 (-0.0015)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	81.94 (+0.02)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	130.90 Jul (2015 = 100)
RPI	374.20 Jul (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	371.90 Jul (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	SEP 23	94.290	94.290	94.250	94.160	40	617
	Dec 23	94.480	94.620	94.050	94.180	148432	519939
3-Mth Sterling	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Sep 23	96.150	96.160	96.145	96.150	108068	633588
	Dec 23	96.100	96.105	96.090	96.095	88400	603897
	Mar 24	96.165	96.180	96.155	96.160	65938	534872
	Jun 24	96.330	96.340	96.315	96.315	56484	479665
	Sep 24	96.535	96.550	96.515	96.520	51965	213184
3-Mth Euroswiss	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
FTSE100	Sep 23	7486.5	7557.0	7472.0	7505.5	391896	506314
	Dec 23	7549.5	7614.5	7531.0	7564.5	313225	97765
FTSEurofirst 80	Sep 23				5752.0		
	Dec 23				5778.5		

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Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	91.79	-0.18
BFOE(Nov)	90.71	-0.01
BFOE(Dec)	90.13	+0.01
WTI(Nov)	86.66	-0.15
WTI(Dec)	85.94	-0.06

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	1035.00	1039.00	+84.00
Gasoil EEC	1031.75	1032.75	+23.00
3.5 Fuel Oil	563.00	563.00	+17.00
Naphtha	688.00	702.00	+2.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Sep	1006.25-1005.75	Dec	899.75-899.50
Oct	975.50-975.00	Jan	881.25-880.75
Nov	938.25-938.00		Volume: 740611

Brent (9.00pm)

Nov	90.75-90.74	Feb	88.69-88.66
Dec	90.17-90.15	Mar	87.96-87.93
Jan	89.44-89.42		Volume: 2015342

LIFFE

Cocoa

Sep	3040-3017	Dec	2768-2766
Dec	3038-3036	Mar	2715-2598
Mar	2980-2975	May	2409-2588
May	2896-2894		
Jul	2840-2805		
Sep	2810-2679		Volume: 79536

RobustaCoffee

Sep	2640-2550	May	2280-2270
Nov	2434-2432	Jul	2284-2100
Jan	2349-2336		
Mar	2330-2258		Volume: 16203

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		May	701.00-699.50
		Aug	673.40-670.30
Oct	735.00-730.70	Oct	649.00-645.80
Dec	719.80-719.40	Dec	646.20-618.50
Mar	714.40-713.90		Volume: 78459



TESLA

Computer lifts Tesla to new heights

Tesla could receive a $500 billion boost to its stock market value because its supercomputer can power artificial intelligence for driverless cars, analysts have suggested (Katie Prescott writes).

The share price of Elon Musk's carmaking company jumped by a tenth after the prediction from Morgan Stanley, the Wall Street bank, which dubbed the business both an automotive and a technology company.

Dojo, above, is a computer that trains driving systems for autonomous vehicles. It analyses information from vast databases gathered by cameras and sensors on millions of vehicles. Tesla predicts that Dojo, which went into production in July, will become one of the world's most powerful computer systems by February 2024. In its latest earnings call, Musk estimated that Tesla would spend more than $1 billion on it over the next year.

Morgan Stanley said Dojo could be a standalone service, broadening the company's addressable market. It raised its 12-month share price target for Tesla from $250 to $400 and advised investors to be "overweight" on the stock.

"If Dojo can help to make cars 'see' and 'react', what other markets could open up?" Adam Jonas, of Morgan Stanley, said. He compared its potential to AWS, Amazon's immensely profitable cloud division.

Shares in Tesla closed up by $25.08, or 10.1 per cent, at $273.58 in New York last night.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Vistry Focus on social housing presages returns to investors	12.6%
Fresnillo Tracks gold prices higher	4.6%
Rio Tinto Positive sentiment following cheerful data from China	3.4%
The Restaurant Group Sells lossmaking division	3.6%
Antofagasta Positive economic data from China	2.9%
Ocado Bid speculation dissipating	-2.3%
AstraZeneca Rumours of chief executive exit next year	-3.2%
Playtech Profit-taking	-4.3%
Melrose Industries Broker's downgrade	-5%
Syncona Takes hit on loss of "milestone payment"	-5.5%

Syncona downcast as eye treatment is discontinued



***Dominic Walsh* Market report**

This was not the way to start the week that investors in Syncona would have been hoping for. News that the life sciences investment trust had been forced to take a £54.5 million hit — taken against the value of "milestone payments" due from its sale of Gyroscope to Novartis 18 months ago — dealt a predictable blow to its share price.

Novartis has told Syncona that it is halting development of GT005, Gyroscope's lead asset in the field of macular degeneration, after a risk assessment did not support the programme. Shares in Syncona, which was launched about a decade ago with an ambition to fill the void in transforming promising British science into successful businesses, promptly fell by 7p, or 5.5 per cent, to 121p, wiping more than £40 million from its market value, which now stands at about £813 million.

It wasn't the only healthcare sector player to end the day in the red. **AstraZeneca** tumbled 344p, or 3.2 per cent, to £105.02 after a report over the weekend suggested that Sir Pascal Soriot, its chief executive, was considering leaving as soon as next year. Soriot, 64, has transformed its drugs pipeline and finances since he took charge in 2012, taking its shares to new highs and making it Britain's most valuable public company.

He has shown no signs of planning to bow out and AstraZeneca appeared to play down the speculation, saying in a statement: "We do not comment on market rumours. We have regulatory obligations and were there any truth in a rumour that could significantly impact our share price we would make an announcement."

The FTSE 100 closed in positive territory, adding 18.68 points to close on 7,496.87, a rise of 0.3 per cent driven by mining stocks. **Fresnillo** led the way, adding 25½p, or 4.6 per cent, to 580p, while **Rio Tinto** rose 166½p, or 3.4 per cent, to £50.01 and **Antofagasta** closed the session up 43p, or 2.9 per cent, at £15.09½. Metals prices were boosted by Chinese inflation data and figures showing that China's new bank loans had risen by more than expected during August.

The listed housebuilders were also in demand, at least for a while, in response to an announcement from **Vistry** (up 100½p, or 12.6 per cent, to 900½p) that it was shifting its focus to social housing, potentially sparking a multi-year £1 billion cash return to shareholders. Most fell back later, but **Persimmon** kept hold of a 19p, 1.9 per cent, gain to £10.37.

The more domestically focused FTSE 250 index climbed 59.25 points, or 0.3 per cent, to 18,522.44, with **Babcock**, the aerospace engineer, providing some lift after a positive initiation note from Bank of America Merrill Lynch rating the stock as a "buy". Its shares closed on 392¼p, up 22 per cent, or almost 8½p.

The share price of **Hollywood Bowl** has been a bit disappointing of late and the recent heatwave may have caused players to steer clear of its indoor alleys, regardless of any air conditioning, to fire up the barbecue. Nevertheless, Britain's biggest tenpin bowling operator's foray last year into Canada is proving to be an excellent move. The big questions are when and whether it will cross into the United States, although, with American bowling run rather differently, it is no straightforward "strike". The shares nudged up 4p, or 1.8 per cent, to 232p.

On Aim, **Sportech**, once a lucrative gambling group that consolidated the football pools sector and owned the Spot the Ball game, slumped by 34½p, or 35.6 per cent, to 62½p after it confirmed it was cancelling its listing.

Wall Street report

Markets were bolstered by encouraging economic numbers from China and optimistic remarks from Janet Yellen, the Treasury secretary, with the Dow Jones industrial average rising 87.13 points, or 0.3 per cent, to 34,663.72.

RETAILING

Instacart debut tests the waters

Instacart is targeting a valuation of up to $9.3 billion in its initial public offering, less than a quarter of the price it fetched at its last funding round (Jessica Newman writes).

The online grocery delivery group confirmed plans to raise up to $616 million by offering 22 million shares, or 8 per cent of its stock, when its shares begin trading next week.



The American grocery delivery firm is offering 8 per cent of its stock

Customers of the company, founded in San Francisco in 2012, order through its app and a "shopper" delivers items in as little as 30 minutes.

It was valued at $39 billion at its last private funding round in 2021, as cheap money helped technology start-ups to reach sky-high valuations. Its debut is being watched by investors, who believe that it could help to kickstart a wave of flotations at far lower prices than those achieved via venture capital backing.

It comes as Arm, the British chip designer, plans its debut in New York, seeking a valuation of $52 billion, far lower than the $64 billion at which SoftBank, its owner, bought a stake last month.

Kyle Stanford, an analyst at PitchBook, said the listing would be "more comparable for other VC-backed companies" than other listings this year.

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Nov	186.00	Jan	unq	Mar	unq
May	197.50	Jul	unq	Volume: 1533	

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)		
8332.0-8332.5	8359.0-8360.0	8440.0-8450.0
Lead ($/tonne)		
2312.0-2314.0	2243.0-2245.0	2240.0-2245.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2437.0-2437.5	2463.0-2465.0	2493.0-2498.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2153.0-2154.0	2194.0-2195.0	2338.0-2343.0
Nickel ($/tonne)		
20045.0-20050.0	20250.0-20260.0	21375.0-21425.0
Tin ($/tonne)		**15mth**
25500.0-25550.0	25725.0-25775.0	25345.0-25395.0

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Owing to a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Friday.

Bullion: Open $1918.78

Close $1924.93-1925.15 High $1930.32

Low $1918.53

AM $1925.55 **PM** $1927.80

Platinum $ (£)

Silver $23.09 (£18.42)

Palladium $ (£)

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	5.56	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 5.25 ECB Refi 4.25 US Fed Fund 5.25-5.50

Halifax Mortgage Rate (SVR) 8.74

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.6874-8.7128	8.6916-8.6932	149ds	461ds
Euro	1.1685-1.1653	1.1656-1.1654	12pr	36pr
Montreal	1.6992-1.7050	1.7015-1.7016	7ds	21ds
New York	1.2477-1.2546	1.2537-1.2538	1pr	1pr
Oslo	13.272-13.354	13.335-13.341	106ds	314ds
Stockholm	13.829-13.897	13.864-13.871	200ds	569ds
Tokyo	182.67-183.89	183.50-183.54	87ds	264ds
Zurich	1.1128-1.1181	1.1160-1.1163	35ds	106ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5524-1.5525
Canada	1.3571-1.3573
Denmark	6.9329-6.9335
Euro	0.9296-0.9296
Hong Kong	7.8315-7.8319
Japan	146.38-146.38
Malaysia	4.6740-4.6790
Norway	10.636-10.641
Singapore	1.3597-1.3599
Sweden	11.059-11.062
Switzerland	0.8903-0.8903

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	438.77-438.78
Australia dollar	1.9463-1.9465
Bahrain dinar	0.4693-0.4762
Brazil real	6.1759-6.1797
Euro	1.1654-1.1656
Hong Kong dollar	9.8180-9.8195
India rupee	103.94-103.94
Indonesia rupiah	19241-19242
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3857-0.3880
Malaysia ringgit	5.8555-5.8617
New Zealand dollar	2.1150-2.1157
Singapore dollar	1.7046-1.7050
S Africa rand	23.638-23.650
U A E dirham	4.6012-4.6015

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.947	-0.01
Canada $	1.703	
Denmark Kr	8.696	+0.01
Euro €	1.166	
Hong Kong $	9.813	+0.02
Hungary	447.463	-1.21
Indonesia	19199.930	+65.92
Israel Shk	4.771	-0.03
Japan Yen	183.436	-0.93
New Zealand $	2.116	
Norway Kr	13.336	+0.02
Poland	5.419	+0.05
Russia	119.741	-2.77
S Africa Rd	23.666	-0.16
Sweden Kr	13.866	+0.01
Switzerland Fr	1.117	
Turkey Lira	33.680	+0.16
USA $	1.253	

Rates supplied by Morningstar

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.
12-month high and low High/low prices for UK equities are based on closing prices. Investment trust high and low prices are based on intra-day figures.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
395⅜	89½	Aston Martin Lag	339	+ 4	...	-2.0

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236⅝	133	**Abrdn**‡	157¼	+ ¾	...	3.4
9¾	6⅛	Acuity RM♦	6⅞	- ¼	...	...
2490	1881½	**Admiral**‡	2356	- 2	...	12.0
49¾	14½	ADVFN♦	14½	- 1½	...	2.5
390	255⅛	AJ Bell	296½	+ 5½	...	27.8
27666⅝	21468⅞	Aon Corpn	26749⅜	+ 134	...	65.2
1075	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	950	...	...	21.0
12½	7	Argo Group♦	7	- ½	...	3.2
286⅜	180⅞	Ashmore	189½	+ 1	...	6.4
1327⅝	1146¾	Aus New Z	1298½	+ 17⅞	...	10.1
462⅜	369⅝	**Aviva**‡	374⅞	+ 5⅝	...	49.3
341½	211¾	Banco Santander	293	- ½	...	6.9
3635	1944	Bank of Georgia	3355	- 40	...	10.3
189⅝	133⅞	**Barclays**‡	149⅞	+ 1⅝	...	3.6
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	...	...	...	2.3
418	283	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	365	+ 8	...	10.0
15⅛	6¾	Braveheart Inv♦	12⅛	- ⅜	...	0.3
515	513	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
303⅜	166⅞	Bridgepoint‡	195¼	+ 4¼	...	12.2
52½	24½	Cenkos Secs♦	29	...	...	5.9
321	262½	Chesnara	272	+ 4	...	15.1
52¾	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+ 1	...	-0.6
470	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	385	- 1	...	9.0
1131	796½	Close Bros	827½	+ 7	...	6.1
268	102⅜	CMC Markets	103	+ ⅜	...	3.1
1024¾	614⅜	Commerzbk	813	+ 15¾	...	41.6
1058⅝	651½	Deutsche Bk	843⅝	+ 15¾	...	9.8
235¼	133⅞	Direct Line Ins	176	- 5½	...	7.3
78⅛	44⅞	EFG-Hermes Hldg	48⅝	- 3⅛	...	3.1
195	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	157½	+ 5	...	8.8
1216⅛	840¾	FBD	1110¾	...	...	4.9
70	65	Fiske♦	65	...	...	11.5
75	53½	Frenkel Topping♦	57½	...	...	33.4
1008	602	Georgia Capital	1008	+ 18	...	2.7
1065	670	Gresham House♦	1065	...	...	42.7
506	394	H&T Group♦‡	409	- 1	...	13.1
55½	33	Hansard Global	41½	+ ½	...	14.3
949½	740¾	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	752⅜	+ 13	...	13.4
175	117½	Helios Under♦	127½	...	...	...
654⅞	442⅛	**HSBC**‡	590	+ 5½	...	12.8
836½	632½	IG Group	667½	+ 9½	...	6.8
883	500	Impax♦	530	+ 6	...	17.4
1511½	953⅛	Intermed Capital	1338½	+ 6½	...	7.6
128	64⅜	IPF‡	121	+ 1	...	6.8
168	121½	International Public P'ship	129	...	...	16.5
546⅜	351½	Investec	473	+ 8½	...	11.8
340	253	Investment Co	335	...	...	12.0
75⅜	52	IP Group	58¼	+ ½	...	2.1
195	94	Jarvis Securities♦‡	105	...	...	7.5
151	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	96¼	+ 2¾	...	3.5
95¼	55⅞	Just Group‡	75½	+ ½	...	...
664	461¾	Lancashire Holdings‡	588½	+ 13½	...	...
265¾	204	**Legal & Gen**‡	220	+ 3⅜	...	6.7
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	- 2⅝	...	...
1290	587½	Liontrust	621	+ 2½	...	7.7
54	31	Livermore Invs♦	36½	...	...	2.3
53⅞	39	**Lloyds Banking Gp**‡	41½	+ ⅛	...	5.7
32½	19⅜	LMS Capital‡	19½	...	...	8.4
8774	7104	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**‡	8300	+ 36	...	84.8
219¼	159⅞	**M&G**	198¼	+ 4⅝	...	61.9
286¾	202	Man‡	209½	+ 3⅝	...	8.4
29	8¼	Manx Fin♦	22	...	...	11.1
2¾	1	Marechale Cap♦	1⅝	...	...	0.8
15757⅝	11956¼	Marsh McLn	15606¾	+ 61⅜	...	32.5
670	530	Mattioli Woods♦	605	...	...	...
18½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ ¾	...	3.5
153⅛	69	Metro Bank	101⅜	- ½	...	-0.7
1673⅛	1285¾	Nat Aust Bk	1492⅛	+ 20½	...	14.8
309⅞	212⅜	**NatWest**‡	226	+ 1⅞	...	8.9
341	170⅜	Numis♦	334½	...	...	6.8
568½	321½	Onesavings Bank‡	321½	- 3⅛	...	4.2
611	377½	PayPoint‡	562	- 2	...	17.6
3⅛	¼	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
647	504¾	**Phoenix**	515½	+ 3⅜	...	-5.9
1371½	797½	**Prudential**‡	892¾	- 3¾	...	14.5
2¼	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	1¼	...	...	-7.0
109⅜	71¼	Quilter‡	87	- ⅞	...	62.1
97	44	Randall & Quilter♦	52	- 1⅜	...	77.5
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1724	+ 12	...	13.3
¾	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	1.8
2050	1395	Rockwood Strategic	1830	- 5	...	2.6
2570	1905	S & U	2195	- 25	...	10.3
1⅝	⅜	Sancus Lending Grp♦	½	...	...	-0.2
50	40	Schroder REIT	41	...	...	4.3
506¾	358¾	**Schroders**‡	406	+ 2¾	...	1.8
1304½	850⅜	**St James Place**‡	865	+ 15¾	...	16.4
790¾	519½	**Stand Chart**‡	715	+ 9⅜	...	16.0
8½	6½	Starvest♦	6½	...	...	-1.0
60	24½	STM Group♦‡	60	...	...	23.1
4082⅞	3164⅝	Sun Life Can	3917¼	+ 67½	...	10.0
9	5½	Tavistock Inv♦	5¾	...	...	0.9
2850	1634	TBC Bank Group‡	2740	- 5	...	8.0
12¼	3½	Tern♦	4½	...	...	3.3
57	48	Thames Ventures VCT‡	48	...	...	6.4
29¼	15¼	Time Finance♦	26	+ ½	...	15.8
243¾	103	Vanquis‡	120	+ 3	...	2.2
1245	900	Volvere♦	1125	- 20	...	...
34½	7	WH Ireland♦	7	...	...	3.9
30	23	Walker Crips Grp	23	...	...	65.7
3887⅛	2903⅝	Wells Fargo	3302	+ 29½	...	9.0
1252	1023⅝	Westpac	1106⅞	+ 19½	...	14.9
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	27¾	...	...	86.8
41101¼	34961⅝	Zurich Fincl	37122⅛	+ 322¼	...	14.5

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
2036	1044½	**3I Group**	2020	+ 26½	...	9.3
346	276⅝	3i Infrastructure	303½	...	...	-9.5
1428	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1212	- 4	...	-13.3
99⅜	78	abrdnDivInc&Grwth	82¾	- ½	...	-26.8
1057½	884	Alliance	1052	+ 4	...	-6.1
457	338¼	Asia Dragon Tr	360	+ 2	...	-16.0
220	171½	Athelney Trust	195	...	...	-8.5
206½	171¾	AVI Global Trust	198⅛	+ ⅛	...	-11.0
330	206¼	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	216½	+ 2½	...	-13.1
102⅛	73½	BaillieGifford Eu Gr	85½	+ ⅛	...	-13.7
829	692	Baillie Gifford JpnTr	722	- 4	...	-7.6
163¾	125⅜	Baillie Gifford SN	133¾	- ½	...	-11.8
180¾	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	157⅛	+ ⅜	...	-14.3
98	64	Bal Comm Prop	70⅞	...	...	-39.6
107	90⅞	Bankers Inv Trst	97½	+ ⅛	...	-12.9
5232	334	BH Macro	352½	+ 1½	...	-11.8
1048	745⅜	Biotech Growth	792	- 3	...	-6.0
149½	108	BlckRck Com Inc	116¼	- ⅝	...	-9.7
148	123	BlckRck Fro Inv	142½	...	...	-8.3
566	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	527	+ 1	...	-5.1
206	164	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	181½	...	...	-11.1
449	331½	BlckRck Latin Am	391	+ 6	...	-15.0
1450	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1268	+ 4	...	-13.4
215	178	BlckRck Sustain Amer	182½	+ 1¾	...	-8.4
670	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	558	+ 1	...	-8.5
774	538	BlckRck Wld Min	587	+ 7	...	-1.6
1321⅜	1115	Brown Adv US sm	1172½	+ 5	...	-16.7
1115	888	Brunner	1070	+ 5	...	-12.8
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv	3470	- 35	...	-30.9
432	366½	City of Lon IT	396	+ 4½	...	0.8
121	60	Crystal Amber Fd♦	63	...	...	-35.2
534	384	CT Priv Eq Ord	506	+ 11	...	-27.0
96	72	CT Property	73½	- 1¼	...	-14.5
317	256	CT UK Cap&Inc	288½	+ 4½	...	-5.4
93	77	CT UK HIT B	79	...	...	-7.1
89	71	CT UK HIT	80	+ ½	...	-6.2
356	294	CT UK HIT UNIT	311	...	...	-8.2
590	476	Dunedin Entp	562½	+ 2½	...	-9.7
690	537	Edinburgh IT	652	- 1	...	-9.4
195⅜	135⅛	Edin Wwide	150½	- ⅛	...	-16.3
336	273⅛	EP Global Opp	291	...	...	-19.5
97¾	74½	European Assets	86	- ¾	...	-7.8
817	608	European Opp Trust	802	+ 3	...	-10.8
992	825⅝	**F&C Invest Tr**	876	+ 6	...	-10.9
536	413½	Fidlty Asian Val	522	+ 6	...	-6.0
299⅜	181⅞	Fidelity China Sp	210½	+ ½	...	-10.9
649⅞	552⅝	FdltyEmrgMkt	588½	- 2¼	...	-13.7
362	258½	Fidelity European Trust	346½	- 1½	...	-4.8
187	154	Fidlty Jap Tru	168	+ ¼	...	-11.2
293½	232	Fidlty Spec Val	268½	+ 1½	...	-8.8
923	760½	Fins Gwth & Inc	868	- 2	...	-4.3
107⅞	68⅛	GCP Infrastructure	71½	- ⅝	...	-34.1
39	24	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	27⅛	...	...	-14.4
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	138⅜	- ¼	...	-16.1
201¼	161	Hansa Investment	184½	+ 2½	...	-42.1
193⅞	160	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	183	+ 1	...	-42.1
2450	1900	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2310	+ 5	...	-40.3
166¾	120½	Hend Euro Foc	160½	- ½	...	-10.3
181	137¼	Hend High Inc	163½	+ ¾	...	-1.0
907	674¼	Hend Smlr	709	- 2	...	-13.8
1966	1540	Herald	1758	+ 4	...	-15.1
419⅝	316	HgCapital Trust	397½	+ 8½	...	-17.0
179	119⅝	HICL Infra	127	- 1⅛	...	-22.0
500	216	Highbridge Tactical	425	...	...	61.1
1223¾	928	ICG Ent Tr	1130	+ 2	...	-39.6
462½	373⅛	Impax Env Mkts	389	- 1	...	-5.2
374	280	Invesco Asia Tr	324½	+ 4½	...	-10.9
173	141	Invesco Bond Inc	163	+ ½	...	1.3
155⅜	111	IPST Bal	117	- 2	...	-22.4
258½	200	IPST Gbl Eq	244	...	...	-12.3
101	88	IPST Managed	93½	...	...	-14.9
177	141	IPST UK Eq	153¾	+ 5¼	...	-17.3
478	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	416½	+ ½	...	-8.4
814	657½	JPM American	807	+ 2	...	-1.4
402¼	294½	JPM Asia Gro & Inc	344	- 3	...	-8.5
419	237½	JPM China	247	+ 1½	...	-11.5
722	624	JPM Claverhs	658	+ 6	...	-5.5
804	514	JPMorgan Emerg E & ME & Africa	648	- 1¾	...	180.8
120⅜	91	JPM Em Mkts	106¾	+ ⅛	...	-6.9
449	339	JPM Euro disc	381½	+ 1	...	-13.3
142½	108	JPM GEMI	126½	- ½	...	-10.2
481	394	JPM GG&I	472	- ½	...	1.6
898	764	JPM Indian	860	+ 2	...	-18.2
347	297	JPM Jap Sml Co	315	+ ½	...	-12.1
521	416	JPM Japan	479½	- ½	...	-7.8
974¾	735	JPM Mid Cap	891	+ 13	...	-13.9
98	85¼	JPM Multi-asset G&I	91¾	...	...	-3.9
303	230	JPM Smllr Co	264	+ 2	...	-13.8
228½	180½	Keystone Positive Change Inv plc	213	+ 1	...	-14.8
871	649	Law Debenture	805	- 2	...	2.2
135	99	Lowland	111½	+ ¼	...	-13.9
223	156¾	Majedie	182¾	- ½	...	-24.9
358	272⅛	M Currie Port	325½	+ ½	...	-1.9
104½	85	Marwyn Val In	91½	...	...	-45.6
222	158¼	Mercantile IT	198½	- ⅛	...	-13.0
606	480	Merchants	537	+ 2	...	0.8
733¾	639¾	Mid Wynd	711	- 2	...	-1.4
1073	906	Monks Inv Tst	960	- 4	...	-13.3
151⅛	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	126⅜	- ¾	...	-12.1
886	715	Murray Income Trust	818	- 1	...	-8.9
275¾	225½	Murray Int	241½	+ ½	...	-6.5
80⅛	70⅛	Nb Global Floating	72¾	- ¼	...	-8.4
384	326	Pacific Assets	370	+ 3½	...	-7.2
285½	229⅛	Pantheon Int	283	...	...	-37.4
3115	2565	**Pershing Sq**	3038	- 8	...	-35.2
492	458⅞	Personal Assets	466	+ 1	...	-1.2
2340	1697½	Polar Cap Tech	2255	- 5	...	-13.6
196	115	Prem Glb & Inf	121	...	...	-8.8
148⅛	103½	Renewables Inf	106½	- ¾	...	-18.5
2400	1784	RIT Cap Ptnr	1922	+ 8	...	-20.3
736	510	Riverstone	605	...	...	-53.1
457	366½	Schroder TotRt	404	+ 4	...	-6.6
549¾	446	Schrd Asia Pac	489	- 2½	...	-10.9
324	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	269	+ 1½	...	-9.2
240	190	Schrod Jap Gwth	235	- 1½	...	-9.0
626	454	Schrod UKMid	539	+ 3	...	-13.5
19⅛	11½	Schroder UK PP Tr	13½	+ ½	...	-47.9
543	434	Scot American	503	+ 2	...	1.5
856¾	604¾	**Scot Mtge**	685½	+ ⅜	...	-18.6
239¼	205	Secs Tst Scot	218	- ½	...	-1.7
94¾	71	Sequoia Eco	83	...	...	-10.9
249½	195⅛	Temple Bar	232	+ 1	...	-5.7
166	130	Tplton Emg Mkt	148⅜	+ ⅜	...	-13.5
162¾	122	The Glbl Smaller	143⅛	- ½	...	-12.8
¼	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	66.6
362½	254	TR Property	285	+ 4	...	-9.0
74	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	69⅜	- ½	...	-1.9
200	122	Utilico Ord	130	- 1	...	-36.5
234	197½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	220	- ½	...	-14.1
697	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	615	- 8	...	-18.2
237	199¾	Witan	223	...	...	-10.2
349½	296	Ww Health	312	+ 1	...	-8.7



Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
183½	135	Alumasc♦	163½	+ 1	...	8.3
11⅛	8¾	Aseana Props	9⅛	- ¾	...	-4.5
64¾	43⅛	Assura‡	44½	...	...	8.9
2¾	1¾	Aukett Swanke♦	1¾	...	...	-2.6
393⅜	294½	Balfour Beatty	322⅜	- ⅜	...	15.2
506⅜	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**	441⅞	+ 5½	...	6.9
2500	1586½	Bellway	2160	+ 38	...	6.4
4504	3165	**Berkeley**	3978	+ 6	...	10.3
1290	987	Big Yellow Group	1026	+ 2	...	6.7
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	350	...	...	28.4
277	198	Boot (Henry)	198	- 11	...	10.5
471⅜	297¼	Br Land	313¼	+ 2⅛	...	42.9
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
61⅜	43¼	Cap & Regnl‡	56	+ 1	...	-0.4
2550	2350	Cardiff Prop	2450	...	...	26.6
25	1¾	Carecapital♦#	1⅞	...	...	-0.2
155	106	Clarke T‡	139½	+ 1½	...	10.0
261	191⅝	Countryside Partner	229¾	+ 14	...	16.7
28	6	Craven House♦	13⅛	- ⅜	...	-0.2
4674	2858½	**CRH**	4369	...	...	18.1
2726	1812	Derwent London‡	1857	+ 16	...	8.2
4⅝	3⅛	Dolphin Capital♦	4⅝	...	...	-3.1
28	19	First Prop♦	19	- ¼	...	...
45½	34½	Fletcher King♦	36½	...	...	...
42	27¼	Foxtons Group‡	36⅛	+ 1⅛	...	...
210	145	Galliford Try	199	+ 3⅛	...	44.2
357½	252½	Genuit Group‡	322	+ 3½	...	19.5
490	335	Gleeson (MJ)	383	+ 8	...	5.9
988⅝	630½	Grafton	898	+ 10⅝	...	10.4
275⅛	205⅜	Grainger	233⅜	- ½	...	14.5
603½	382¾	Great Portland	415¾	- ½	...	-5.2
30½	17⅛	Hammerson‡	25¼	+ ¼	...	-2.7
136½	101	Harworth Gp	105½	+ 4½	...	3.6
630	400	Heath (Samuel)♦‡	400	...	...	8.2
389	220	Helical PLC	220	- 2½	...	5.3
1025	750	Highcroft Invs	845	...	...	3.6
201⅛	135¾	Ibstock‡	145	...	...	18.8
224	176	James Halstead♦	200	+ 2	...	21.3
856	591	Keller	773	+ 3	...	8.9
6522¾	3850½	Kingspan Group	6214⅛	- 221⅞	...	24.4
743⅛	485¼	**Land Sec**‡	579½	+ 2⅛	...	...
91	58	Life Science Reit	65½	+ ½	...	...
22	10½	Lon & Assoc	10¾	...	...	-1.4
212½	161¾	Londonmetric Property‡	174	+ ¾	...	3.7
62	45¼	Macau Prop Op	50½	...	...	-6.5
366½	225⅜	Marshalls	267¾	+ 3¾	...	9.7
101	74	Michelmersh♦	89½	...	...	14.2
2025	1392	Morgan Sindall	2025	+ 45	...	9.9
12500	10550	Mountview	10650	...	...	13.2
94½	68¼	NewRiver REIT	82	+ ⅞	...	-2.8
260	195	Palace Capital	250	- 10	...	11.9
335	260	Panther Securities♦	275	- 10	...	2.4
1531	968½	**Persimmon**	1037	+ 19	...	4.2
3⅝	1⅞	Pires Investments♦	1½	...	...	-3.3
65	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
138⅛	88¾	Primary Health Properties	93½	+ ¾	...	9.5
35¼	28¼	Real Estate Invs♦	29	...	...	3.8
545	372½	Redrow	476	+ 7	...	5.9
1074	794	Safestore	805	- ½	...	4.5
1055	763½	Savills‡	915½	+ 12	...	9.1
6¼	5⅜	Secure Property♦	6	+ ⅝	...	15.8
946½	694	**Segro**‡	729¾	+ 3⅜	...	2.1
44⅜	27¾	SIG	34½	- ⅜	...	...
63	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	56⅛	- ½	...	...
91¾	66½	Sirius Real Estate	88¾	- ¼	...	6.9
173½	160½	Smart (J)	166	...	...	4.5
50	27	Steppe Cement♦	27	...	...	6.2
128¼	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	114½	+ 1⅜	...	7.5
170½	121	Town Centre	121	- 2	...	4.7
1082½	738	Travis Perkins	819½	+ 6⅛	...	7.9
170	123½	Tritax Big Box Reit	138⅝	+ ½	...	2.5
82	50¾	Tritax Eurobox	54⅛	+ 1½	...	...
318	184½	Tyman	298½	- 3½	...	11.8
1070	791½	**Unite**	920½	...	...	10.7
900½	519½	Vistry Group	900½	+ 100½	...	7.8
157	77½	Warehouse REIT‡	81	- ⅛	...	1.9
537	343⅜	Workspace Grp	484¾	- 1½	...	-7.2
700	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	690	...	...	5.0

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5	1	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦	31½	...	...	11.6
880	652	Anglo-Eastern‡	736	- 2	...	6.7
297½	147½	Animalcare♦	175	...	...	...
2114	1237	**AB Foods**	2001	+ 17	...	33.0
121	86	Bakkavor Group	101	...	...	10.5
561	432	Barr (AG)	487½	- 1	...	17.3
3⅞	¾	Bidstack Group♦	¾	...	...	-0.6
39	24½	Brand Architekts♦	28	- ½	...	-1.2
3509	2484½	**Brit Amer Tob**	2638½	+ 46½	...	8.9
936	707½	Britvic	877½	+ 3	...	19.9
2641	1636	**Burberry**	2127	+ 1	...	18.3
183¾	123⅜	C&C Grp	137¾	+ 1	...	-8.2
5½	1	Capital Metals♦	1	...	...	-0.2
149¾	92	Carr's Grp‡	129¼	+ ¼	...	15.9
525	255	Character Grp♦	267	...	...	4.7
1640	1070	Churchill China♦	1285	- 10	...	...
2565	1840	**Coca Cola HBC**	2271	+ 14	...	18.1
840	610	Colefax♦	760	+ 10	...	13.4
3466	2586	Cranswick	3466	+ 8	...	18.3
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3857½	3147½	**Diageo**‡	3175½	- 24½	...	24.4
1¼	⅜	Distil♦	½	...	...	12.5
908	670	Evans (M.P.)♦	728	- 38	...	6.2
103½	77	Finsbury Food♦	91	...	...	10.8
11700	5690	Games Workshop‡	10480	- 40	...	28.8
1326⅜	900⅞	Glanbia‡	1306¼	...	...	32.2
92¼	60¾	Greencore	79¼	- ¼	...	15.8
348	214	Headlam	225	- 5	...	9.7
973	500	Hilton Food	721	+ 11	...	15.0
29	16	Hornby♦	17	...	...	80.9
2185	1695	**Imperial Brands**‡	1767	+ 11	...	5.9
1½	1	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	+ ¼	...	7.9
8605½	6983⅞	Kerry Gp	7136¼	- 98⅝	...	19.7
44⅜	19	McBride	39⅜	+ ½	...	-7.0
295	200	Mulberry Group♦	200	...	...	8.2
1155	958	Nichols♦	1075	+ 20	...	...
232	143	Norcros	148	- 6	...	4.6
373⅛	270¼	Origin Ents♦	279½	- 4¼	...	8.8
11⅝	...	Pittards♦#	5⅜	+ 1	...	2.5
512½	282	Portmeirion♦	294	+ 1	...	12.5
⅞	½	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
221	153¾	PZ Cussons	157½	+ 1⅜	...	18.1
125	50¾	REA	52¼	...	...	-4.1
2	⅞	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
320	200	Tandem♦	210	...	...	3.0
724	512	Treatt	512	+ 1	...	20.5
3¼	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2½	...	...	-1.6
5051	4451	Unilever (NV)	4721½	+ 16	...	24.2
4443½	3838	**Unilever**	4048½	+ 6	...	20.7
722	400	Victoria♦	565	+ 34	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1200	631	Avon Rubber	645	+ 10	...	...
394⅛	268½	Babcock	392⅛	+ 8⅜	...	-2.4
1038½	714	**BAE**	1038½	+ 11	...	18.9
2150	1200	Braime A N/V♦	1475	...	...	16.6
1850	1650	Braime Group♦	1850	+ 50	...	20.8
580	470	Caffyns	515	...	...	7.4
4½	1⅛	Cap XX Ld♦	1⅜	...	...	-2.9
419	279	Castings	335	- 5	...	16.1
5	2⅞	Chamberlin♦	2⅞	...	...	-0.2
34	14	Checkit♦	26	...	...	-3.1
540	391	Cohort♦‡	503	- 2	...	44.7
400	249	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1335	815	Dewhurst♦	855	...	...	9.8
325	192¼	Dialight	229	+ 3	...	...
1249⅞	825½	Electrolux 'B'	835	+ 22⅝	...	6.3
182½	85½	Feedback♦	87½	...	...	...
664	426	Gooch Hsego♦	512	- 2	...	37.9
4925	2550	Goodwin	4925	+ 130	...	27.2
2498	1974	**Halma**	2159	- 18	...	31.2
1810	893	Hill & Smith	1724	- 10	...	40.5
89	61	Holders Tech♦‡	61	...	...	3.7
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	1¾	...	...	10.5
1680	1089	**IMI**‡	1473	- 20	...	20.1
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10200	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9000	- 70	...	45.4
101½	72½	LPA♦	87½	...	...	...
798¾	798½	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
543⅛	200⅜	**Melrose**	485½	- 25¼	...	...
323½	217	Morgan Advanced	247	+ 1½	...	10.4
325	191½	Mpac♦	191½	+ 4	...	5.0
745	318	MS Intl♦	720	+ 15	...	...
2855	1720	Oxford Inst‡	2240	+ 10	...	30.6
1787⅛	1041	Philips El nv	1722¼	+ 48	...	30.6
15½	11¼	PipeHawk♦	11⅝	...	...	24.8
71	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦	31½	- 1	...	-2.6
4232	3342	Renishaw	3586	+ 38	...	20.4
31	20½	Renold♦	30⅝	+ ⅛	...	10.9
223½	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	223½	+ 3⅛	...	...
1⅝	⅝	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
342⅛	229½	Rotork‡	301½	- 1½	...	32.7
200	102	SDI Group♦	106	+ 3½	...	17.4
181⅛	111	Senior	169	- 6½	...	29.4
75	48	Severfield‡	60½	- 1	...	10.8
14	2⅝	Six Hundred♦	2⅝	...	...	15.5
1554¼	1046⅝	SKF B	1292¼	+ 13¼	...	9.5
300	225	Slingsby (HC)♦	265	- 25	...	4.3
1797½	1470½	**Smiths**	1663	+ 4½	...	26.4
1435	986	Solid State♦‡	1310	- 5	...	31.5
450	257	Somero Enter♦	299	- 1	...	6.6
3841	2690	Spectris	3320	- 4	...	10.9
12350	9702	**Spirax-Sarco**	9876	- 108	...	31.1
57	26½	Surface Trsfms♦	32	- ¼	...	...
3¾	2	Tanfield♦	3⅝	...	...	...
440	345½	Thorpe FW♦	385	...	...	26.7
2⅛	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
102½	48½	Transense Tech♦	97½	...	...	71.6
...	...	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	...	37.4
454⅛	302⅛	Vesuvius‡	435¾	- 1⅛	...	11.6
1470	500	Videndum	500	- 17	...	9.1
335	202	Volex♦	315	- 1	...	17.2
2021	1404½	**Weir**	1909	+ 3	...	32.2
2680	1464	XP Power‡	2175	...	...	11.6
150	76½	Zytronic♦	76½	- 1	...	25.5

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1103	Abcam♦	1226	+ 123	...	...
290½	177⅛	AdvancedMedical♦	186	+ ½	...	29.2
19¾	⅞	Allergy Therap♦	2¾	...	...	-3.2
74½	11	Angle♦	19	+ 3⅛	...	-2.5
570	178½	Anpario♦	227½	...	...	11.9
12294	9656	**AstraZeneca**‡	10502	- 344	...	...
248½	196⅝	**Convatec**‡	224¾	...	...	52.5
43	25⅜	Creighton	31½	...	...	6.0
3812	2520	Dechra Pharma	3806	...	...	56.8
1½	⅛	Deltex Medical♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
23	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	14⅝	- ¾	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	109	...	...	13.2
51	24⅝	EKF Diagnostics♦	26	- 1	...	7.3
65	35¾	Futura Medical♦	52	+ 2	...	...
3272	2120	Genus	2120	+ 12	...	37.7
1523	1296	**GSK**‡	1468¾	+ 24½	...	16.9
½	¼	Gunsynd♦	¼	...	...	3.4
353½	259⅜	**Haleon**‡	324¾	+ 5⅞	...	...
2205	1190½	Hikma Pharms‡	2073	- 13	...	15.5
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	240½	+ 13½	...	...
6⅞	1½	ImmuPharma♦	1⅞	...	...	-0.6
7025	1365	Indivior	1812	- 24	...	...
88½	42	Inspiration Health♦	44	...	...	6.8
39	17½	IXICO♦	19⅜	- ½	...	6.2
501	491½	Mediclinic	501	+ ½	...	31.3
3½	1⅜	N4 Pharma♦	1⅜	...	...	-1.6

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
71½	34⅜	NIOX Group♦‡	68	+½	...	68.0
93.95	73.32	Novartis	CHF88.31	+0.19	...	10.0
4	2	Omega Diags♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.8
14	1¾	Ovoca Bio♦	1¾	-⅛	...	-0.5
562	287½	Oxford Biomedica	287½	-14½	...	12.9
5	⅞	Physiomics♦	1⅝	...	...	-6.5
8½	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	5¾	-⅜	...	...
6628	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**‡	5826	+20	...	...
63½	15⅛	RUA Life Sciences♦	16¼	...	...	-1.5
217½	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	82½	...	...	...
1314½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1067½	+½	...	24.2
250	203	Spire Hcare	212½	+2½	...	...
23½	6¾	Synairgen♦	9¼	+¾	...	-0.4
70	48	Tissue Regenix♦	54	...	...	...
38	8	Totally♦‡	8⅛	-⅛	...	12.9
435	295	Tristel♦	367½	+2½	...	75.7
20	6	ValiRx♦	6¼	...	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
107	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	71	+1½	...	...
4636½	3333⅛	BASF	3859¼	+44⅛	...	7.6
5361⅜	4068	Bayer DM50	4391½	+86⅝	...	51.2
175	46½	Biome Tech♦	157½	...	...	-5.2
2¾	1½	Byotrol♦	1⅝	...	...	...
...	...	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp	76¼	+½	...	17.0
7218	5142	**Croda**‡	5142	-98	...	22.4
1035	575	Cropper (James)♦‡	745	...	...	22.7
129	87⅝	Elementis	115⅜	-1⅛	...	...
19	11	Hardide♦	11½	...	...	-2.2
2373	1543	**Johnson Math**	1748	-2	...	22.0
1601	1180	**Mondi**‡	1305	+13½	...	9.9
110	77½	Robinson♦	92½	...	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**‡	290½	+½	...	16.5
738	531	Swire Pacific	590½	+½	...	...
17¼	6⅝	Symph Environ♦	8	...	...	...
192⅝	47⅞	Synthomer	47⅞	+⅜	...	1.0
2525⅜	2021⅜	Takeda Pharm	2477⅝	+19	...	13.8
7	1⅜	Velocys♦	1⅜	...	...	-1.8
1913	1338	Victrex	1453	-21	...	17.3
640	397½	Wynnstay Group♦	410	-2½	...	9.4
410	233	Zotefoams‡	340	-5	...	20.4

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
130	51⅝	888 Hldgs	127¼	-¾	...	9.4
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	690	-10	...	18.1
680	370	Best of the Best♦	530	...	...	5.9
1356½	501⅜	Carnival	1077½	-9	...	-1.7
132½	108	Celtic♦	125	...	...	12.3
7	¼	Cineworld#	⅜	...	...	...
424½	215⅛	Domino's Pizza‡	393¾	+1⅝	...	20.0
1587½	1083	**Entain**‡	1162	-11	...	26.0
16725	9694	**Flutter Ent**	14260	+55	...	...
38	23	Gaming Realms♦	36⅜	+⅜	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	150	...	...	9.0
145	90	Hermes Pacific♦	90	-20	...	...
6122	4275	**InterContinental Hotels**‡	6122	-12	...	57.3
1⅛	¾	Minoan Gp♦	¾	...	...	-5.8
236⅛	102	Mitch & Butlers	220¾	+1	...	...
189½	82¾	On The Beach	100¾	+4⅜	...	-5.3
1435	1005	PPHE Hotels	1075	-15	...	-8.7
104⅜	52⅜	Rank Grp	84¼	-½	...	11.3
51⅛	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	49⅛	+1⅝	...	-9.2
50½	32½	Rotala♦	42	...	...	...
175	...	Sportech♦	62⅜	-34½	...	...
281⅛	184¾	SSP	229¾	-1	...	-4.4
5¾	1¾	Tasty♦	2¼	...	...	3.1
295	62½	Tintra♦#	67½	...	...	-1.1
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	476½	+11¾	...	-4.9
2⅜	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
783½	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	681½	-6	...	-6.3
3583	2285	**Whitbread**	3583	-17	...	...
1240	870	Young & Co - A♦	1140	+25	...	...
892	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	792	+2	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
88	68	Aeorema Comms♦	76½	...	...	21.1
52	21	Altitude Group♦	50	...	...	...
97	63½	Arcontech Grp♦	97	+½	...	13.4
281	176⅛	Ascential	201⅜	+2½	...	...
669	486⅛	**Auto Trader**‡	603½	+1⅜	...	29.7
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	401	+1	...	16.5
8	⅜	Bonhill Group♦	⅝	-⅛	...	-1.5
172½	87	Catalyst Media♦	119	-1	...	...
¼	...	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	DCD Media♦#	100	-30	...	5.0
58½	43	Ebiquity♦	46	...	...	...
1818	643	Future	734½	+12	...	12.6
196	144⅞	GlobalData♦‡	153½	...	...	7.6
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
196	69⅜	IG Design Grp♦	144	+11½	...	21.1
776	506½	**Informa**‡	747¾	+6¾	...	...
90	55⅛	ITV	72⅜	+1⅜	...	7.7
9¾	4⅛	Jaywing♦	4¾	...	...	...
4	1½	Live Company Gp♦#	2	...	...	-0.4
171	83½	ME Group	160⅛	+3⅛	...	27.9
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-4.5
46½	26½	Merit Grp♦	44½	...	...	...
42½	1½	Mirada♦	1½	-1⅜	...	...
58	38½	Mission Group♦	42	...	...	7.1
280⅜	172⅜	Moneysupermarket	244	-4⅛	...	24.9
1732¾	1198⅛	News Corp A	1684⅛	+3⅛	...	27.4
1770⅜	1223¾	News Corp B	1730	+1⅛	...	28.2
1112	554	Next 15 Group♦	621	-25	...	...
995⅛	754	**Pearson**‡	881¾	...	...	42.1
4⅜	2	Primorus Inv♦	2⅞	...	...	5.3
198	107½	Quarto	110	-5	...	6.1
120⅝	66¼	Reach‡	71⅛	-⅜	...	79.1
1½	¾	REACT Grp♦	1½	...	...	22.8
2722	2157	**Relx**	2712	-10	...	35.7
637¾	445⅜	**Rightmove**	557	-5¾	...	31.5
101⅞	65	SpaceandPeople♦	79½	...	...	...
315	192	STV Group	207	+12	...	5.0
230	122½	System1 Group♦	215	...	...	10.2
2975	2257⅝	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2539	+35⅞	...	13.9
2753¾	2129½	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2339¾	+33⅛	...	12.8
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	7.0
356	257	Wilmington	310	...	...	19.7
1051½	731¾	**WPP**	768	+7⅜	...	14.6
112½	77½	Zinc Media♦	80	...	...	-5.0

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
¾	⅜	ADM Energy♦	½	...	...	...
⅛	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
29½	11¼	AFC Energy♦	16½	...	...	...
31	20½	Afentra PLC♦#	24¼	...	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.0
½	⅛	Alien Metals♦	⅛	...	...	-5.6
87⅜	52⅝	Alumina	52⅞	+1	...	11.0
1¼	⅞	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.4
1¾	...	Amur Mins Corp♦#	...	...	...	-2.0
728599⅛	2637	Anglo Amer Plat	2637	+116½	...	1.9
3672½	1970	**Anglo American**‡	2071½	+48½	...	4.1
121	50½	Anglo Asian Mng♦	50½	-5½	...	4.3
1805	1042½	**Antofagasta**‡	1509½	+43	...	15.6
4⅜	2⅜	Arc Minerals♦	3⅛	-¼	...	2.2
3½	2	Ariana Res♦	2¾	...	...	3.7
⅝	¼	Arkle Resources♦	¼	...	...	-1.0
2⅜	¾	Armadale Cap♦	¾	...	...	...
1⅝	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1⅛	...	...	...
380	188	Atalaya Mine♦‡	333	+5	...	4.2
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
4¾	1⅜	Beowulf Mining♦	1½	...	...	-6.5
...	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.7
2855	2052	BHP Group‡	2256	+49	...	9.8
5⅜	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2	...	...	...
20⅜	13¼	Bougainville	16⅞	-1	...	...
4½	⅞	BowLeven♦	1¾	...	...	-2.2
567½	430	**BP**‡	517¼	...	...	18.7
16⅝	6½	Cadence Min♦	7¾	+¾	...	0.7
2½	1½	Cadogan Petrol	1¾	...	...	25.0
1350	775	Caledonia Mining♦	780	+5	...	7.6
555¼	162	Capricorn Energy	163	-1½	...	1.2
8⅜	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	3	...	...	91.1
125½	83	Centamin‡	86⅛	-⅛	...	13.3
292½	175½	Cent Asia Metals♦	206	+4½	...	6.0
14½	5¼	Chaarat Gold♦	5¼	...	...	...
19⅞	13⅜	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	13⅜	-⅜	...	...
4	¾	China Nonferr Gold♦	¾	-⅛	...	-5.1
⅛	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-1.4
34½	15¼	Condor Gld♦	22½	...	...	...
⅜	⅛	Corcel♦	⅜	...	...	-0.5
10277⅛	77¼	DRD Gold	77¼	-¼	...	9.1
1⅛	¼	ECR Minerals♦	¼	...	...	-1.5
1⅜	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	⅞	...	...	-6.9
2184	1461	**Endeavour**‡	1520	-34	...	22.6
31½	14	EnQuest	14⅝	-¼	...	0.9
7⅛	2¼	Eurasia Mining♦	3	...	...	...
2⅞	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1¼	...	...	11.8
175	74¼	Ferrexpo	78¼	...	...	0.6
968	509⅛	**Fresnillo**‡	580	+25½	...	13.7
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	14¼	Galantas Gold♦	14¼	...	...	-2.4
7¼	1⅞	GCM Resources♦	1⅞	-⅛	...	-1.6
36⅝	15¾	Gem Diamonds	16¾	-⅜	...	1.7
19½	8⅜	Getech♦	8⅜	-¼	...	-2.0
578	411⅜	**Glencore**‡	435¼	+9¼	...	15.9
⅜	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-1.5
135104¾	996¾	Gold Fields	996¾	-8¼	...	15.3
12½	6½	Goldplat♦	6½	...	...	5.0
8⅛	2⅛	Goldstone Res♦#	2⅛	...	...	-9.9
9⅛	6	Greatld Gld♦	6	...	...	...
96½	70	Griffin Mining♦	81⅞	+1	...	9.0
235	90⅝	Gulf Keystone	93¼	+2⅝	...	5.8
25⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	12⅞	-⅜	...	1.0
94⅞	51½	Hochschild	79½	-3⅞	...	7.6
172	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	134	...	...	...
351½	197⅜	Hunting PLC	255	-1	...	-6.4
¼	...	Independ Res♦#	...	...	...	...
272	125	Indus Gas♦	141	...	...	14.6
⅜	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-4.3
166	66¾	ITM Power♦	79	-⅞	...	...
14	6¼	Jubilee Metals♦	7	...	...	5.8
4¾	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	4½	...	...	...
1	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅝	...	...	-2.5
493	380½	Kenmare Res	422	+2	...	4.9
9	8⅝	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
20	8¼	Landore Res♦	9⅞	-⅜	...	-2.2
½	...	Lansdowne O&G♦	...	...	...	-2.8
15	10	Leeds Group♦	10	...	...	-1.6
8¾	3⅛	Lexington Gold♦	6	...	...	...
21½	7¼	MC Mining♦	7¾	...	...	-1.6
2¼	¾	Metals Explorn♦	2	...	...	3.5
¼	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G	11¾	+¼	...	-0.1
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	-5⅜	...	60.3
...	...	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
⅛	...	Oriole Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.1
⅞	½	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
14½	3	Orosur Mining♦	3	...	...	-4.6
20⅛	12	Pan African Res♦	14	...	...	4.5
121⅞	10½	Pantheon Res♦	22	-¼	...	...
67⅜	13	Parkmead Grp♦	17½	-¼	...	-1.5
⅜	⅛	Pathfinder Mins♦	⅜	...	...	-3.5
120	64¾	Petra Diamonds	70	...	...	2.3
1⅞	⅞	Petrel Resources♦	1	...	...	-5.3
7	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	3⅝	...	...	...
125½	46	Petrofac	77¼	+¼	...	-2.0
1	...	Petroneft Res♦#	...	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	-⅛	...	1.6
6½	5½	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+¼	...	-1.6
15¾	1⅝	Plexus Holdings♦	13½	-½	...	-3.3
350	150	Polymetal Intl#	215	+50	...	...
698	499	Porvair	590	-10	...	22.6
19¼	5¼	Prospex Energy♦	6	-¼	...	-8.0
14⅝	7½	Proton Motor Power S♦	7¾	-⅜	...	-1.4
3½	3¼	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	⅞	Quadrise♦	⅞	...	...	-3.7
21	2	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
⅜	...	Reabold Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.7
½	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.7
6563½	4486	Rio Tinto Ltd	5773⅝	+63⅛	...	6.0
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**‡	5001	+166½	...	5.2
40	12½	San Leon Energy♦#	16½	+1½	...	6.1
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
38½	21½	Serabi Gold♦	23	-½	...	3.1
390	198⅜	Serica Energy♦	256½	+⅛	...	...
13½	8¾	Shanta Gold♦	10⅛	...	...	6.4
2604½	2200½	**Shell**‡	2510	+7½	...	13.2
15	4¾	Shuka Minerals♦	12¾	-½	...	-0.8
2	¾	Sound Energy♦	¾	...	...	5.4
106½	10	Star Energy♦	10	+¼	...	-0.5
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	-9.4
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.4
6½	1⅝	Thor Mining♦	1¾	...	...	...
5250¾	3838½	Total Eng SE	5228⅝	+144	...	11.9
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.7
50¾	22½	Tullow Oil	37⅛	+¼	...	3.7
...	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-1.2
222	125	URU Metals♦	125	...	...	4.0
¾	⅛	Vast Res♦	¼	...	...	...
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3¼	1⅞	Westmount Engy♦	1⅞	...	...	-0.4
226	104½	Wood Grp (J)	161½	+1⅛	...	-6.6
4½	¼	Woodbois♦	⅝	...	...	2.3
3½	1⅛	Xtract Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-2.4
7¼	3	Zephyr Energy♦	3½	...	...	-4.5

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5350	3280	4imprint Grp‡	4995	-15	...	84.2
657½	460	Andrews Sykes♦	630	...	...	20.1
5874	3829	**Ashtead**‡	5150	-40	...	25.0
7¾	⅞	Asimilar Group♦	1	...	...	...
78½	38	AssetCo♦	38	-1	...	0.2
55	40½	Avisen♦	48½	-1½	...	...
148	117	Begbies Traynor♦	117	-2¼	...	...
226	154½	Blancco Tech♦	226	...	...	81.0
3225	2664	**Bunzl**	2800	-7	...	21.2
42⅝	16½	Capita	16½	+⅛	...	1.2
41½	36	CEPS♦	41	+2	...	-9.3
160	105	Christie Group♦	107½	+2½	...	45.7
2235	1788½	**Compass**	2024	-25	...	49.2
252	97	CPPGroup♦	154½	-3	...	...
70	45	Croma Security♦	49½	...	...	7.1
5066	4030	**DCC**	4430	+46	...	14.6
104	30	De La Rue	58⅜	+1	...	7.6
3308	2226	Diploma	3116	-32	...	55.7
938	626	Discoverie	735	+8	...	60.2
33	23½	Driver Group♦	27½	...	...	13.1
252	146	Essentra	146	-⅛	...	16.4
3160	2568	**Experian**	2759	-19	...	35.4
12850	9094	Ferguson	12350	-20	...	18.2
274	225	FIH Group♦	242	...	...	...
10⅝	5	Grafenia♦	9	...	...	-6.6
485	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	479	+6½	...	5.0
735	465	Impellam Grp♦	700	...	...	38.2
7½	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4528	3619	**Intertek**	4178	-27	...	23.4
197⅝	115⅜	IWG	172	+2⅞	...	-6.5
138	77	Johnson Srvce♦	133⅛	-½	...	83.2
197	106	Journeo♦	188½	-½	...	42.2
90	56½	Kier Gp	88⅛	+1	...	8.6
1360	1080	Latham (J)♦	1115	...	...	6.1
990	695	Lok'n Store♦	728	+12	...	22.0
3150	2300	Lon Security♦	3000	+50	...	16.5
339	220	LSL Prop Services	253	+20	...	7.0
119	86	Macfarlane	110	-½	...	12.7
255	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	165	...	...	5.0
2000	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	24½	...	...	...
292	185	Mears Group	276	+2	...	24.0
103⅛	61½	Mitie Gp	102¾	+½	...	51.4
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	4¾	...	...	3.5
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	52½	-1½	...	...
6½	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	5½	-¼	...	...
62½	37	Northern Bear♦‡	54½	...	...	5.5
286	218½	NWF Grp♦	235	...	...	...
491½	362⅛	PageGroup‡	407⅞	+5⅛	...	11.0
61½	45½	PCI-PAL♦	47	...	...	-9.7
11½	6¾	Petards♦	6⅞	...	...	12.5
24	12½	PHSC♦	22½	...	...	40.9
1⅞	⅜	PowerHouse Egy♦	½	...	...	-0.9
98	66	Record	79	+2½	...	21.7
437½	283½	Redde Northgate‡	328	-1½	...	8.2
760	555	Renew Hldgs♦	705	-3	...	17.4
738	450	Renewi	500	+8½	...	10.5
655⅛	465	**Rentokil**‡	584⅛	-4¾	...	41.4
430	125	Restore♦	194	-6	...	23.1
610	412½	Ricardo	522	+2	...	46.6
600	355	Robert Walters‡	370	+14	...	8.4
20	11	Roebuck Food Grp♦	13½	...	...	2.0
239	207	RPS Group	221	-1	...	...
1118	696½	**RS Group**	745½	-2	...	18.9
53½	16	RTC Group♦	51½	...	...	...
408⅜	226⅛	RWS Hldgs♦	235	+1	...	21.5
431	365	Science Group♦	402	-8	...	18.5
180⅛	136⅞	Serco‡	149	-¾	...	6.1
57½	27½	Smiths News	43½	+¼	...	4.2
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	3068	+70	...	13.9
44	25⅜	Staffline Gp♦	29¼	+⅜	...	22.5
484½	332	SThree	356	+½	...	11.5
137½	102½	Synectics♦	112½	...	...	...
31	21⅝	Thruvision Group♦	30	...	...	...
84	35	Tribal♦	44½	+1	...	13.9
87	49	Vianet♦	78½	...	...	...
803	535	Vp	542½	+2½	...	13.3
2⅜	1⅛	Westminster♦	1⅜	...	...	-1.7

Real estate

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
131¼	95½	Shaftesbury Cap‡	118¼	+½	...	34.7

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
100½	41⅜	AO World	92	-1⅝	...	...
590½	295½	**B&M European**	570⅛	+7⅜	...	13.2
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	22	+¼	...	6.5
112½	40¾	Card Factory	104	+⅛	...	...
2192	1506	CVS Group♦	1506	-100	...	42.1
165	104¾	DFS Furn	111	+1	...	5.9
1275	712½	Dunelm	1130	+8	...	15.2
899	621	**Frasers Group**	804	+5½	...	35.7
2904	1673	Greggs‡	2408	+10	...	21.0
226⅛	126½	Halfords‡	194	+1½	...	6.4
759⅛	480⅞	Howden Joinery	731⅜	-4⅛	...	13.8
941	675	Inchcape	775½	+9½	...	26.2
4⅜	1⅝	IQ-AI	4¼	...	...	...
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	139½	+1¾	...	16.8
291½	203	**Kingfisher**	230	+3⅞	...	5.7
129⅛	61½	Lookers	129	+⅜	...	8.3
231½	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	220½	-1⅜	...	...
11⅛	4⅞	Mothercare♦	5⅛	...	...	-3.2
145	60	Naked Wines♦	69½	-1⅛	...	...
7228	4383	**Next**	7158	+50	...	13.6
976⅜	343⅜	**Ocado**	808⅛	-18½	...	...
28⅜	14⅞	Pendragon	18⅛	...	...	5.6
397½	257¾	Pets at Home	347½	+1⅜	...	14.1
188½	72⅞	Saga	129¾	+¾	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	269	+2⅛	...	22.6
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1390	+8	...	...
27¼	14¼	Sosandar♦	22½	-¼	...	...
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	-2½	...	2.4
284½	199⅛	**Tesco**	259⅝	+1	...	13.2
56⅜	38	Topps Tiles	49⅛	...	...	8.9

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
100½	59	Access Intell♦	59	...	...	-8.1
131	9½	Aferian plc♦	17½	-½	...	3.1
196½	126	Alfa Financial	160½	+½	...	25.1
13¾	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+3⅛	...	-1.2
419	268	Aptitude Software	280	-7	...	31.4
265	162½	Bango♦	167½	+5	...	...
33	21	BATM Adv Coms	29¼	+⅛	...	12.2
38	14¼	Berkeley Res	19½	...	...	-8.3
20	5¾	Blackbird♦	10½	+¾	...	...
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	¾	...	...	-1.9
2474	1810	Computacenter	2452	-34	...	15.2
86½	55½	Concurrent Tech♦	73½	...	...	17.4
11½	5¾	Corero♦	6¼	...	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1580	+32½	...	72.0
3¼	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	2⅜	...	...	16.3
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	14¾	...	...	...
261½	157½	D4t4 Solutions♦	190	...	...	22.5
21	13	Dillistone Group♦	13½	...	...	-3.9
⅜	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-1.8
870	518	FDM Group	555	-2	...	19.2
18	10¾	Filtronic♦	16	-½	...	43.2
2165	1230	First Derivts♦	1568	-22	...	...
644½	213¾	GB Group♦	221⅜	-½	...	16.9
180½	135	GreshamTech	148	-1	...	...
75½	24¼	Ilika♦	39½	-1	...	...
132½	91	Ingenta♦	122½	+6	...	71.6
77	38	Intercede♦	52	...	...	17.9
189⅜	112	Iomart♦	180	+4	...	19.7
59⅞	16⅜	IQE♦	16⅜	-⅜	...	...
129	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	123	...	...	-2.1
1683	1041⅞	LG Electronics	1356⅞	+79¾	...	3.6
⅛	⅛	Location Sciences♦#	⅛	...	...	-2.3
56½	42	MTI Wireless♦	44½	-½	...	14.8
55¾	17	Nanoco Gp	17½	+¼	...	...
116½	74	Netcall♦	84	+1½	...	...
49½	35	Northamber♦	45½	...	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	12	...	...	-6.3
119	80½	Oxford Metrics♦	98	-2½	...	42.6
8½	2⅝	Parity♦	2⅝	-⅛	...	-3.8
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	38	...	...	...
634½	390¾	Playtech	508	-23	...	5.3
379¾	297⅛	QinetiQ	336⅜	+2	...	26.2
92	20½	RM	60	-1⅞	...	12.0
1022½	679¾	**Sage**	1022½	+2½	...	39.2
7⅝	5	Seeing Machines♦	5½	...	...	...
116½	37	Shearwater Grp♦	43½	...	...	26.9
54	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	42½	+½	...	-4.4
1534	1071	Softcat	1497	-20	...	29.3
286⅛	145¾	Spirent Comms‡	145¾	-1	...	13.5
68	24¾	SRT Marine♦	49⅛	-1¼	...	...
571⅝	362⅜	Tele. Ericsson	412⅛	+2½	...	7.5
112½	72½	Touchstar♦	96¼	...	...	...
1000	720	Tracsis♦	805	+35	...	...
19½	12¼	Trakm8♦	17	...	...	...
165	81	Triad Grp	130	...	...	14.2
1380	49	Wandisco♦	61	-5⅛	...	-1.1
735	399	Water Intel♦	399	-1	...	21.9
220	144½	Xaar	187	-3	...	...
5⅝	⅛	Yourgene♦	½	...	...	-0.3
207½	59	Zoo Digital♦	60½	-½	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
144	103⅝	**Airtel Africa**	114	+1½	...	10.1
160¼	112	**BT Group**‡	113	+⅞	...	10.9
85¼	47⅞	Currys plc	49⅜	+⅛	...	2.3
1210	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1148	-6	...	20.8
128⅛	82	Helios Towers	89¾	+1½	...	-8.1
2215½	1030	Just Eat T'away	1053	+41	...	-2.2
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.2
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1⅜	...	...	-8.2
2500	1464	Telecom Plus	1550	+6	...	39.7
110½	70	**Vodafone**	75⅛	+1⅞	...	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
336½	224	Braemar Ship#	233	+3	...	7.7
528	285	EasyJet	441	+9½	...	-2.7
6⅞	2⅜	Esken Limited	3½	...	...	-0.1
156¼	93½	FirstGroup	156¼	+½	...	37.2
425	251	Fisher (James)	341	+4	...	-6.1
173½	93⅝	**International Airlines**	156¼	+1¼	...	-3.4
272⅜	183⅛	IDS	257⅝	+4½	...	2.9
439¼	322	Irish Cont Uts	393	...	...	...
1381½	667¾	Jet2♦	1098	+11	...	-5.9
198⅞	75⅜	Mobico Group	87½	-⅞	...	-5.2
1035	820	Ocean Wilson	930	-4	...	4.7
...	...	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24	17	Sutton Harbour♦	17½	...	...	...
372	192⅜	Wincanton	236	-2	...	6.4
3158	1357½	Wizz Air	1954½	-89½	...	-4.4

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
162⅜	67¼	**Centrica**	162⅜	+½	...	16.4
256½	249	ContourGlobal	251	+½	...	28.3
750	473⅜	Drax Group‡	540⅛	-2⅜	...	40.0
555	432	Jersey Electricity	450	...	...	8.5
1162	858⅜	**National Grid**	997	+½	...	23.2
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	8⅜	...	...	5.4
1000	611	Pennon	611	-½	...	44.2
¾	¼	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
2975	2213	**Severn Trent**	2441	+18	...	...
1900	1428	**SSE**‡	1624½	-2	...	6.3
1102½	828⅛	**United Utilities**	968⅜	+16⅛	...	88.8

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Register

Obituaries

Sir Ian Wilmut

Modest embryologist whose research team famously created Dolly the sheep, the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell

MAURICE MCDONALD/PA





Professor Ian Wilmut with Dolly in 1997, and below, in his lab. The sheep, in effect, had three "mothers" because of the method of cloning that Wilmut's team used

On February 22, 1997 Sir Ian Wilmut appeared on television news bulletins across the world with a sheep. The animal, who owed her existence entirely to Wilmut, became a global celebrity.

The sheep was Dolly, the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell, and Wilmut was the embryologist who led the research group that created her.

He was also responsible for naming her after the American country singer Dolly Parton. "Dolly is derived from a mammary gland cell and we couldn't think of a more impressive pair of glands than Dolly Parton's," he explained.

By the time her existence was made known to the world, Dolly the sheep was already six months old and she went on to live for nearly seven years, breeding with a Welsh mountain ram to produce six lambs. The first was born in 1998 and was followed by twins the next year and triplets the year after that, proving that although Dolly had herself begun life in a petri dish, she was able to breed normally and produce healthy offspring.

When she was put down in 2003, after suffering from a progressive lung disease and severe arthritis, Wilmut held a wake in his laboratory and toasted her memory with a bottle of champagne.

However, Dolly's groundbreaking legacy has lived on and using the techniques pioneered by Wilmut and his team, numerous other large mammals have since been cloned, including pigs, deer, horses, bulls and monkeys.

Modest and self-effacing, Wilmut credited his late colleague, the cell biologist Keith Campbell, with much of the work in cloning Dolly but his research led to him being appointed OBE in 1999, elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2002 and knighted in 2008.

The process by which Wilmut's team cloned Dolly used a somatic cell (any cell in the body other than the two types of reproductive or germ cells, sperm and egg). In mammals, every somatic cell has two complete sets of chromosomes, whereas each germ cell has only one complete set.

Wilmut and his team at the University of Edinburgh's Roslin Institute found that the nuclear transfer of a somatic cell produces an exact genetic copy of an individual and that adult cells from anywhere in the body could be made to behave like a newly fertilised egg, with all the information needed to form an organism and control growth and reproduction contained in the cell's DNA.

To clone Dolly, Wilmut and Campbell isolated a somatic cell from the udder, or mammary gland, from a six-year old ewe. They then transferred the nucleus from that cell to an egg cell from which the nucleus had been removed. The egg cell, with its new nucleus, developed into an embryo, which was implanted into a surrogate mother and carried to term, so that Dolly, in effect, had three "mothers".

Describing himself as "an old-fashioned father", Wilmut declined to be present at the birth and was digging his garden when Dolly arrived in the world on July 5, 1996, an exact genetic replica of the adult female sheep that had donated the somatic cell.

"Dolly was a bonus," Wilmut said. "Sometimes when scientists work hard, they also get lucky, and that's what happened".

Dolly's birth generated a wave of speculation about human cloning. Wilmut did not believe that the nuclear transfer method he had pioneered was ever likely to be efficient enough to clone a human being. However, he was convinced that there was a hugely beneficial human application in treating disease after Dolly had made it evident that adult cells could be used to produce reprogrammable cells that could develop into any kind of tissue.

He explored the implications of his work in the 2006 book *After Dolly: The Uses and Misuses of Human Cloning*, co-written with the journalist Roger Highfield.

In addition to an embryo-by-embryo account of the science behind Dolly, the book took an enlightened look at the social and ethical issues and the potential for nuclear transfer techniques to be used in stem cell research to provide treatments for diabetes, blindness, heart disease, and a range of other illnesses caused by tissue loss or dysfunction, such as Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis.

"Although I am for the use of genetic modification to treat disease, I would be the first to admit that there will be endless arguments over where to draw the line," he wrote.

His own line was very clear. It would be "criminally irresponsible" to clone humans and he argued for the banning

Dolly Parton's 'impressive' pair of glands inspired the sheep's name, he said

of "designer babies", but he believed it would be immoral not to deploy cloning in medicine to alleviate suffering.

In 2008 Wilmut announced that he was abandoning the somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) method which had created Dolly in favour of a technique developed by Shinya Yamanaka, a Japanese researcher at Kyoto University, which uses induced pluripotent stem cells, often termed "true" stem cells because they have the potential to differentiate into almost any cell in the body.

Yamanaka's method had been used in mice to derive pluripotent stem cells from differentiated adult skin cells, circumventing the need to generate embryonic stem cells. Wilmut believed that this offered greater potential than SCNT to repair damaged tissue for the treatment of degenerative conditions.

He also admitted that there was a practical motivation for adopting the approach, because the Japanese system was "easier to accept socially" as it removed the need to create and destroy human cloned embryos. Together with Campbell and Yamanaka, he was awarded the 2008 Shaw Prize for Medicine and Life Sciences for their work on "the cell differentiation in mammals".

Wilmut is survived by his second wife, Sara Haddon, whom he married in 2017 and with whom he lived in the Scottish Borders. He met his first wife, Vivienne (née Craven), while at school. She predeceased him in 2015 after a 48-year marriage. He is also survived by their daughters, Helen and Naomi, and a son, Dean, who was adopted on the statistical calculation that he and Vivienne could not know how many more girls they might produce before they had a boy.

Ian Wilmut was born in 1944 in Hampton Lucy, near Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, the son of Eileen and Jack Wilmut, a maths teacher. He grew up in Coventry before moving to North Yorkshire, where he was educated at the Scarborough High School for Boys. His father taught at the school.

As a teenager his ambition was to join the Royal Navy but he was unable to do so owing to his colour blindness and he chose instead to study agriculture at the University of Nottingham.

Upon graduating in 1967, a summer internship focused his interest on embryology and he became a postgraduate researcher at Darwin College, Cambridge, where he was awarded his doctorate in animal genetic engineering in 1971 for a thesis entitled *Deep Freeze Preservation of Boar Semen*.

After two years as a post-doctoral fellow at the Unit of Reproductive Physiology and Biochemistry, Cambridge, in 1973 he became a senior scientific officer at the Animal Breeding Research Organisation (ABRO) in Roslin, near Edinburgh, leading the team that produced the first calf from a frozen embryo, named Frostie. ABRO

He argued that to clone humans would be criminally irresponsible

was renamed the Edinburgh Research Station of the Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics Research in 1985, and finally the Roslin Institute in 1993.

Between 1981 and 2000, he held the post of principal investigator at the institute; he went on to become the head of its department of gene expression and development.

In 2005 he switched to medical research, and was appointed professor of reproductive science at the University of Edinburgh and a year later was made director of the Centre for Regenerative Medicine at the university.

When Parkinson's disease was diagnosed in 2018, Wilmut admitted that given the nature of his work there was a "grim irony" to his predicament. He became the patron of a research programme set up to enable trials of a new generation of therapies that aimed to slow the progression of the disease. He was "happy to act as a guinea pig and either donate tissue or try new treatments", he told The Times.

However, he admitted that he was struggling to come to terms with the condition and the regime of drug-taking, with each dose announced by a reminder on his computer or mobile phone.

He had known for some time before his diagnosis that he was ill but suffered a crisis when he suddenly found himself unable to move while walking his dog. There were moments of frustration when he wanted "to kick the furniture" and his diagnosis brought a sense of his own mortality, he admitted. "With these serious conditions I rather get the impression that the first question people ask is 'How long have I got?'

"My doctor didn't wait for me to ask, he said: 'Ten, 15 years.' It's not bad. You can have a lot of fun in ten or 15 years."

In the end he only had five, but as he had done all his life, he made the utmost of them.

Sir Ian Wilmut, geneticist and embryologist, was born on July 7, 1944. He died after a long illness on September 10, 2023, aged 79

Register

Nico Ladenis

Self-taught chef who put London on the culinary map before giving up his three Michelin stars

IAN BRADSHAW/REX



Nico Ladenis in 1989, and below, with Marco Pierre White, a protégé, who also went on to earn three Michelin stars, in 1995

As certain diners approached his restaurants, Nico Ladenis would glower through the window, his big domed forehead already pulsing with indignation. As the original *enfant terrible* of the London restaurant scene and the only Michelin three-star chef who was self-taught, Ladenis tore up the time-honoured adage that "the customer is always right" as he unleashed a campaign of correction on the benighted British fine diner that did much to put the capital on the culinary map.

Guests who had the temerity to ask for salt and pepper, sullying his perfect flavours, were "invited to leave". Other outrages included customers ordering fish without one of his meticulously sieved sauces, arriving five minutes late, poor posture at the table and wearing jeans. The Conservative politician Edwina Currie once caused grave offence by mashing up her food.

Two years after the opening of Chez Nico in East Dulwich, southeast London, in 1973, customers were told exactly what to expect in a notice outside the restaurant. "We do not feel we have to produce our menu to show you how good we are. For your information, we do not serve prawn cocktails or well-done steaks." After a customer twice sent back his beef for more cooking, Ladenis removed the steak charge from the bill, ripped up the diner's money and threw it under the table.

If some of these stories were apocryphal, Ladenis never sought to dispel them and it was said he was the first chef to realise the PR potential of such scenes, which would later be exploited to their fullest extent by Gordon Ramsay.

Ladenis later claimed to abjure the cult of the celebrity chef that he had helped to create, and simply stated that he cared about food so much that he was a relentless perfectionist and incapable of compromise.

He ran restaurants for more than 30 years, from Chez Nico to Nico at 90 at the Grosvenor House Hotel in Mayfair, a venture that earned him his sought-after third Michelin star.

His short menus, based on classic French dishes, exemplified not just excellent food but presentation and total restaurant ambience. Ladenis was a devotee of the pure white plate on white linen cloths without folds or ridges, all presented with flowers on the table.

Within the profession he was loved. Marco Pierre White was a protégé, Anton Mosimann a great admirer and if some restaurant critics found fault with the decor of his restaurants and criticised his menus for failing to keep up with modern trends and "sophistication", they rarely dared to denounce the food. "If genius is the capacity for taking infinite pains, Nico has it," said Prue Leith. The British cookery writer Elizabeth David, a regular customer, loved his mushroom soup with madeira and coriander leaves.

Ladenis, who wore the permanently strained expression of a man whose temper could boil over at any moment, described his cooking as "strong flavours (I just cannot make a sauce that doesn't taste strong), beautifully presented and basically that's it".

Nicholas Peter Ladenis was born in Tanganyika (now part of Tanzania) in 1934 and spent an idyllic childhood on his parents' sisal plantation below Mount Kilimanjaro. His Greek mother, an excellent cook, introduced him to French cuisine from an early age. His father, also a good cook, was of Turkish-French descent and had run restaurants in Kansas City. The child's contribution to the family table came from shooting game birds and cooking them in the earth.

He was educated at the Prince of Wales School in Nairobi before coming to Britain in 1955 to study economics at the University of Hull. A series of jobs followed at Caltex, Ford Motors and The Sunday Times's advertising department. "I stumbled and fumbled and quarrelled and walked out of jobs, argued forcibly with superiors and refused to buckle down and allow my character to be moulded in the method and tradition of the big corporations," he recalled. After a failed interview with Shell Oil Brazil he was advised not to seek such further jobs because their tests revealed he was "non-conformist and unemployable".

Ladenis married Dinah-Jane Zissu (whom he met at The Sunday Times) in 1963. The couple later moved to the south of France and took a sabbatical year exploring Provence, spending their savings on "restaurants, wine, Roquefort cheese, baguettes and lots of patisserie". They soon realised they had "to do something with food".

Back in England he adopted *Masterpieces of French Cuisine* by Francis Amunategui as his bible and began to cook, honing his skills by helping a close friend to run a Greek restaurant. He never regretted his lack of formal kitchen training, though he later worked for a short period at Roger Vergé's three-star restaurant in Mougins, southeastern France. "Young aspirant chefs should begin by working in an important kitchen," he said.

A customer was thrown out because they asked for salt and pepper

Having failed to get premises in Chelsea and with money running out, he opened in East Dulwich in 1973 with his wife as maître'd. They served red wines at a cool cellar temperature and eschewed decanting fussiness. Footfall increased dramatically after an early positive review by the Hungarian food critic Egon Ronay entitled *The Secret of Lordship Lane*. And although Ladenis refused to co-operate with the *Good Food Guide* in his second year, as they had got facts wrong in the first year, the guide's recommendation further buttressed his reputation.

In 1980 Chez Nico moved to Battersea, where, in 1981 and 1984, he earned his first and second Michelin stars. Ladenis said that he was driven to such heights by feeling like an outsider and by a belief in his own excellence that was entirely untrammelled by self doubt. "I wanted to join that rare group, I wanted to belong," he said.

He continued to expand, opening Simply Nico in Rochester Row in Westminster in 1986. Nico Central followed in 1989, a simpler restaurant style with a branch in Manchester. In 1992, nearly 20 years after opening Chez Nico, he reached the top of the Monopoly board by opening Chez Nico at Ninety Park Lane. Naysayers sneered that he was compromising his principles to open a restaurant at the Grosvenor House Hotel, owned by Sir Rocco Forte, who also operated the Little Chef chain of motorway eateries. Forte wisely imposed no strictures on Ladenis save continuing to offer culinary perfection in reassuringly expensive luxury French cuisine. Both were rewarded when in 1995 Ladenis won his third Michelin star. Other awards included chef of the year in 1988 and 10/10 from *Good Food Guide* in 1998, 1999 and 2000.



Yet having climbed the greasy ladle to reach the top of the London dining scene, Ladenis stunned the restaurant world in 1999, at the age of 65, by asking Michelin to exclude him from its guide, effectively giving up his three stars. Ladenis claimed to be disillusioned with fine dining. "The climate was changing. People were no longer appreciative of three-star food. The prices were much too high and I was beginning to feel that I preferred to cook simpler food," he told The Caterer magazine in 2002. It later emerged that prostate cancer had been diagnosed and he retired to his home in the south of France in 2003.

He passed the baton to his daughters Natasha and Isabella, who had helped their father to lay tables and wash up at Chez Nico from an early age. Natasha went on to run his restaurants Incognico, in Shaftesbury Avenue, and Deca in Conduit Street, Mayfair. His daughters survive him, with his wife. Food was an all-consuming passion, but Ladenis also enjoyed travel and expensive cars.

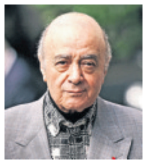
He summed up his aims for a dish as "precision, restraint, simplicity and the perfect sauce". He hated the mixing of ingredients and once claimed that Heston Blumenthal had "debased himself" with his menus. He despised fashionable food trends and the only good thing he found in nouvelle cuisine was that chefs regained from waiters and silver service the ability to finish and present their dishes. Among his signature dishes were artichoke hearts stuffed with minced mushroom with hollandaise sauce; poulet au vin jaune; John Dory fillets with thyme olive oil; beef fillet with cep fumet; rack of spring lamb with garlic sauce; and warm chocolate mousse.

Ladenis mellowed in later years; poor dining etiquette was more likely to be greeted with a thick arched eyebrow. Yet he never did quite come to terms with the idea of anyone visiting his restaurants with a calorie-counting agenda. Indeed, customers who suggested that they were on a diet would feel the full force of the Greek assassin eyes boring into them, before being reminded that they were about to "compromise the hours of hard work and devotion my chefs put into preparing food".

Nico Ladenis, chef, was born on April 22, 1934. He died of undisclosed causes on September 10, 2023, aged 89

Lives remembered

Mohamed Al Fayed



Michael Beloff KC writes: Mohamed Al Fayed (obituary, September 4) was my most prolific client. Contrary to conventional practice he neither attended at my chambers nor at the office of my instructing solicitor; his lawyers had to come to Mohamed — at his flat above Harrods. He sometimes opened proceedings with a diversionary prologue, once giving me an autographed copy of Monica Lewinsky's memoir accompanied, deliberately a few seconds later, with a large cigar, and on another occasion a pill box which he claimed to contain Viagra. When I represented Lonhro, headed by Tiny Rowland, his arch-enemy, in contempt proceedings in the House of Lords he sent me a message saying that he was very unhappy, but recognised that I had to obey the cab rank rule and he continued to keep me on his list of counsel, the cases culminating in a (predictably?) failed attempt to order Queen Elizabeth II to appear at the inquest into the deaths of his son Dodi and Princess Diana.

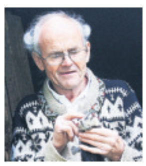
Major Colin Gillespie



Chris Dick Brigadier (retired) writes: As a newly promoted major I was posted to the Joint Warfare Establishment at Old Sarum and had the privilege of sharing an office with Colin Gillespie (obituary, September 2) during his last days of service with the British Army. I was enthralled with stories of his adventurous career, but when hearing that on retirement, despite having no experience, he was going into wine growing I said that I wished him luck, but could think of no surer route into bankruptcy!

Colin then left the army and we did not keep in touch. However, about 12 years later I read in The Times that a British wine grower had just won a coveted award for the quality of their wine. I contacted Colin and ate humble pie for my previous forecast of his ability as a wine grower. I had an immediate response saying that my forecast was probably right as (1) he had not entered the competition, his wife had; (2) the Germans had been disqualified on a technicality; and (3) he was having to reply to hundreds of potential buyers wanting a sample of his wine — the demand for samples of wine way exceeded his entire production!

Arthur Boyt



Brian Parker writes: Arthur Boyt (obituary, September 6) told me that when he and his wife, Sue, moved back to her home town of Exmouth a year or two ago he had the problem of disposing of the road kill that he kept in his many freezers.

He decided to bury it in the plantations covering part of the Davidstow airfield near his house. While doing this he was spotted by some walkers who, their suspicions greatly aroused, phoned the police. The police arrived and, knowing of Arthur's roadkill fame, allowed him to finish "returning nature to nature", as he explained.

If you would like to add a personal view or recollection to a published obituary, you can email it to **tributes@thetimes.co.uk**

Alan Dowding

Chemical engineer who captained Oxford University at cricket and, after a career in the oil industry, became a popular schoolmaster and coach at Radley College

On July 4, 1953 Alan Dowding and Dennis Silk faced each other in the middle at Lord's and tossed a coin as the respective captains of Oxford and Cambridge universities. The ensuing match was a see-saw affair with Oxford establishing a first-innings lead of just over 120 runs before collapsing in their second innings; Cambridge won with two wickets to spare.

Silk, who would later play first-class cricket for Somerset and become chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board, never forgot the way that his opposite captain played the game with the ultra-competitiveness you would expect from an Australian but ultimately accepted defeat with graciousness. The pair, who shared a love of poetry, became great friends.

Sixteen years later Silk, who had moved from Marlborough College to become warden of Radley College — a centre of excellence for cricket which had produced Ted Dexter and later Sir Andrew Strauss — would lure his old adversary out of a successful career in the oil industry to become a popular schoolmaster at the college and a highly effective cricket coach.

Had the Adelaide-born Dowding remained in his home country rather than staying in Britain after a winning a Rhodes scholarship to study chemistry at Balliol College, Oxford, he might have made a name for himself as an Australian rules footballer, where he had been talked up as a future star of the sport while playing for South Australia.

As it was, the dashing, sandy-haired Australian forged a sporting reputation in Britain, and earned a blue, playing cricket as a middle-order batsman for Oxford, scoring back-to-back centuries in 1951, his first year in the side. In 1953 he captained the first XI in 14 first-class matches in a team that included



Dowding, seen here in 1952, also played Australian rules football

his great friend Colin Cowdrey, the future England captain. During that season Dowding led Oxford against the touring Australians, losing by an innings after Oxford were bamboozled by the spin of Richie Benaud and the variations of Keith Miller. He did, however, excel in a match against Yorkshire, until he was bowled for 99 by a certain Ray Illingworth.

Alan Lorimer Dowding was

He scored 99 against Yorkshire before being bowled by Ray Illingworth

born in Adelaide in 1929 to Laurie, a printer, and Elma, née Piper. He attended St Peter's College, Adelaide, before Adelaide University, where he was secretary of cricket. However, his academic skills led to him exchanging the baking sun of South Australia for a snowy English winter in January 1951.

When Dowding began an MSc in chemical engineering at Jesus College, Cambridge, in 1953 after graduating from Oxford, he continued to play first-class cricket for MCC and the Free Foresters, coming up against the young Ted Dexter (obituary, 2021), then playing for Cambridge, in 1956.

In 1955 he was the star player in a hastily assembled combined Oxford and Cambridge Australian rules football team that played an exhibition match against a team of Australian expats in Hyde Park. The game attracted a big crowd and though the combined universities team lost, a local report singled out Dowding for praise, before commenting on the lack of Aussie rules acumen among his fellow scholars. "Dowding burrowed tenaciously into packs, tackled ferociously, and disposed of the ball with telling accuracy. Unfortunately, few of his teammates appeared to be on the same wavelength."

The previous year Dowding had married Jennifer Hughes, whom he had first met when she was a bridesmaid at the wedding of another cricketing friend, John Bartlett. She survives him along with their three children, Fiona, a retired head of a sixth-form college; Nick, a retired KC; and Andrew, the chief executive of an events and media company. With a family to support, Dowding settled down to working for Shell as an engineer on oil refineries, in Britain and the rest of the world.

He joined Radley College in Oxfordshire as a master in 1969. As housemaster of B Social from 1973 to 1984, he was renowned for his pastoral sensitivity and natural friendly curiosity in what interested the boys under his care. He was eventually appointed sub-warden of the college. Ultimately, Silk was proved right about the benefits that Dowding would bring to the cricket programme, and not just in instilling values of sportsmanship. For three consecutive years in the Seventies the Colts team he coached won the Lord's Taverners National Championship.

Dowding retired from the college in 1994 , but continued as an A-level examiner and moderator and coached cricket at Cothill House Prep School in Oxfordshire until the age of 84.

A proud Australian to the end who loved singing and jazz, Dowding watched cricket into old age with his dog Sam resting a paw on his shoulder. Though he had always loved to win, he valued the friendships he made through the game more. When his great friend Cowdrey died in 2000, Dowding commissioned a bench in his honour that still stands near the boundary ropes of the First XI pitch at University Parks.

Alan Dowding, cricketer and chemical engineer, was born on April 4, 1929. He died on June 8, 2023, aged 94

Court Circular



St James's Palace
11th September, 2023
The Princess Royal, former President, Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, today presented The Princess Royal Award and Royal Dairy Innovation Award.

Her Royal Highness, Guardian, the Chaffinch Trust, this afternoon held a Management Team Meeting.

The Princess Royal, Guardian, Give Them A Sporting Chance, later held a Management Team Meeting.

St James's Palace
11th September, 2023
The Duke of Kent, Patron, Polish Hearth Club (Ognisko Polski), this evening attended a Reception at the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, 20, Princes Gate, London SW7.

The perfect gift for new parents

'He'll be shouting for Ireland in the rugby but England in the cricket'



CILLIAN FRANCIS DUNKLEY WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 19, 2022, AT PETERBOROUGH CITY HOSPITAL IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE TO KATE WALSH AND JAMIE DUNKLEY

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THE TIMES

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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LOVE the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Deuteronomy 6.5-6 (NIV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

JORDAN on 4th September 2023 to India (née Lenon) and Daniel, a daughter, Claudia Madeleine Juno, sister to Allegra.

Forthcoming Marriages

MR A. P. BUCK AND MR G. M. RYAN

The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Philip and Cheryl Buck of Solihull, and George, son of Mark Ryan of Datchet and Caroline Ryan of Watford.

MR T. PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE AND MISS C. L. M. SHOTT
The engagement is announced between Timothy, elder son of the Hon Peter and the Hon Jane Pleydell-Bouverie, of Downton, Wiltshire, and Clementine, daughter of Mr Nicholas Shott, of Hill Deverill, Wiltshire, and Mrs Caroline Richardson, of Kingston Lisle, Oxfordshire.

MR A. J. N. KING DL AND MISS E. F. WALKER
The engagement is announced between Alastair and Florence, the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Angus Walker of Hampstead Garden Suburb, London.

Deaths

ASHTON Susan Mary (née Elliott) of Hornby, Lancaster, passed away peacefully on Sunday 3rd September 2023 in Hillcroft Nursing Home, Carnforth, aged 74 years. Beloved wife of Sam, mother of Ben and Charlie, granny of Sam, Innis, Schola and Emrys. Sue will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Funeral service and committal will be held at Beetham Hall Crematorium on Thursday 21st September at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired are for St Margaret's Church, St John's Hospice and Hillcroft Nursing Homes amenity fund, which may be left at the service or sent directly to: Brown & Whittaker Funerals, 6 Chapel Lane, Ingleton, via Carnforth, LA6 3FX. Tel: 015242 41293. jmfunerals@gmail.com.

BROCK Eutichia Anastasia. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Eutichia (Effie) Anastasia Brock on August 6th 2023, peacefully, at home, exactly where she wanted to be. Originally from Greece, she moved to the UK in the 1960s and married her adoring husband, Richard Brock, and had two children that she was devoted to, Alexander and Julian. Effie lived a long and full life for more than ninety years, and was the centre of our family. Forever giving to all, she made a profoundly positive impact on her immediate and extended family, friends, and all invited to visit her centre of the universe, her home. Effie will be forever missed by her daughter-in-law Sonia Brock, her grandchildren Emily, Alice and James, her niece Louise, her son Alexander, and many relatives in Greece, including Artemis, Michael, Marietta, Christiana, their children, and her many long-time friends in Greece and in the UK. Her passing means she joins her beloved late husband, Richard, and her son, Julian, both taken from her, and us, far too soon. For those who wish to do so, memorial contributions to Cancer Research UK would be greatly appreciated at: https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/eutichia-brock.

BLANSHARD Gerald Phoenix (Gerry) MD FRCP died peacefully on 13th August 2023 aged 97 at Alderbrook, Fulmer. Ever loving husband to May and father of Keith, Nigel, Jonathan and Gavin; Papa to his many grandchildren.

MARCH PHILLIPPS DE LISLE Rupert died on 27th August 2023, aged 37. Always beloved eldest son of Peter and Leanda, brother of Christian and Dominic and grandson of Gerard. Requiem Mass and funeral 26th September 2023. For details contact family.

MCMENEMY Margaret (née Kyrle Fletcher) died peacefully on 26th August 2023, aged 87. Wife of the late Peter McMenemy and dear mother to Mary Louise, Simon and Nicholas and grandmother to Charlie, Harry, Annabel, Oliver, James and Elizabeth. Requiem Mass and burial at Arundel Cathedral on Thursday 21st September at 2pm. No flowers, but donations to the MS Society c/o Ballard & Shortall, 12 Hartfield Road, Forest Row, RH18 5DN, or online at www.cpjfield.co.uk/services/280602.

POTTS Henry Arthur died on 9th September 2023. Born 30th June 1938, died peacefully at Poyntington, Dorset, aged 85. Memorial service to be held in Northumberland in late October.

SOUSTER

Philip Anthony Leslie

Passed away peacefully at home on September 6th, 2023, aged 89 years. Formerly of Bedford Modern School and Downing College, Cambridge. Devoted husband of the late Jane was much loved by all his children and grandchildren.

Funeral service at Chester Crematorium on October 2nd at noon. Family flowers only, donations can be made to Cancer Research UK.

All Enquiries to Rolfe's Whitchurch Tel: 01948 662209.

STONE Sarah (née Willink) on 4th September 2023, aged 83. Died peacefully in her sleep at home. Beloved wife after 60 years of marriage and companionship to Michael, mother of Emma, Richard and Susanna, and grandmother of nine. Funeral private but donations can be made on the donations page at www.stmichaelshospice.com. Charity no: 288462.

THOMAS Nigel Eric Lynam died peacefully on 22nd August 2023, aged 90. Devoted husband of Marion, leaving his much-loved brother, children, grandchildren, and extended family. A celebration of his life will take place at St John The Baptist Church, Wonersh, GU5 0PG on Tuesday 19th September at 2pm. No flowers please. Donations to The Brain Tumour Charity.

THOMPSON Brian died peacefully on 4th September 2023, aged 88. Devoted husband to the late Eddi. Beloved father to David and Emma. Proud "Grandpa Moley" to Archie, Rosie and Lily. Funeral on 21st September at 2pm at St John the Baptist Church, Cottered. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Friends of Cottered Church.

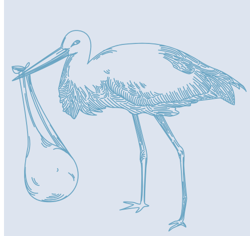
Thanksgiving Services

RAMSBOTHAM General the Lord (David John). A service of thanksgiving will be held at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, on 21st September 2023 at 3pm. Those wishing to attend can obtain tickets online at: https://GeneralTheLordRamsbotham.eventbrite.co.uk. All are welcome to apply.

MCANDREW Nicolas, a service of thanksgiving will be held at St Mary-le-Bow on 18th October 2023 at 2pm.

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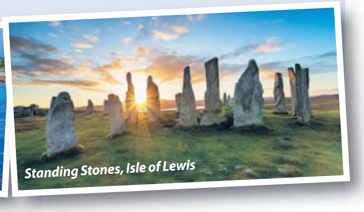
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Highland Cow



Isles of Scilly, Cornwall



Standing Stones, Isle of Lewis

12 NIGHTS DEPARTING 14TH & 26TH APRIL, 8TH & 20TH MAY AND 1ST JUNE 2024

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Day 2 **Relaxing at sea**
Enjoy an idyllic day at sea with plenty to do. Admire the views from ***MS Maud's*** Observation Deck or visit the Science Center for insights into the island destinations ahead Photography enthusiasts can pick up some pointers from our on board photographer on how to capture wildlife and landscapes

Day 3 **Fishguard, Wales**
A short drive away is the UK's smallest city, St. Davids. More a village than a city, it owes its city status to its 12th century Cathedral. You can explore this conservation area as part of an included excursion

Day 4 **Belfast, Northern Island**
Sail in to Belfast, a city with a proud seafaring history and the birthplace of the Titanic. History buffs will enjoy Ulstere Museum and the Belfast Castle, while nature lovers can visit the Botanic Garden

Day 5 **Castlebay, Outer Hebrides, Scotland**
★Captain's Choice★
Today, the Captain and the Expedition Team will decide whether to explore Barra or Vatersay, the two most southerly inhabited islands of the Outer Hebrides, linked to each other by a causeway. Go in search of birds and sea life in expedition boats or attempt to land in the innumerable coves and beaches that dot the island close to Castlebay

Day 6 **Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland**
Visit the regal St. Magnus Cathedral, made from distinctive local red sandstone, and the adjacent Earl's Palace to see the stone ruins of this once grand Renaissance building, The Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae is also only a bus ride away

Day 7 **Stornoway, Isle of Lewis**
As you explore the area around the harbour, keep an eye out for seals, eagles and otters. Enjoy a visit to the Gothicstyle Lews Castle with its spacious grounds full of trails and offering fantastic views

Day 8 **Islay, Scotland**
Offering a diverse landscape, together with ancient Celtic ruins, Islay is a stop-over for migrating birds, making it ideal for seabird spotting along its many superb cliff top walk

Day 9 **Douglas, Isles of Man**
The scenic approach to Douglas is not to be missed! Head ashore to explore the capital of the Isle of Man. Learn about the island's Celtic and Viking heritage, trace its development as a Victorian tourist resort, and see its stunning rugged coastline

Day 10 **Waterford, Ireland**
Visit the nearby 12th century Kilkenny Castle, stroll through quaint villages and charming hamlet towns nearby or take in the beautiful surrounding scenery

Day 11 **Isles of Scilly, England**
Today, join one of the optional excursions× for a trip around the islands, visiting shipwreck sites, spotting seals basking on the rocks and cruising around the bird sanctuary of Annet to observe the puffins and numerous other breeding seabirds

Day 12 **Dartmouth, Devon**
The picturesque banks of the River Dart mark your arrival into beautiful Dartmouth. Steeped in maritime history and culture, this charming town is home to the Royal Britannia Naval College and Dartmouth Castle. Tread the coastal paths and trails that extend along this stretch of coastline, exploring secluded coves and remote beaches

Day 13 **Arrive in Dover**

Port itinerary order is subject to change and may differ based on departure date

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Today Wet in England and Wales, sunny spells with a few isolated showers elsewhere. Max 24C (75F), min 1C (34F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	14	C	9.4	7.4
Aberporth	17	D	0.8	0.6
Anglesey	17	D	1.6	1.0
Aviemore	15	C	12.8	3.8
Barnstaple	20	C	0.6	**
Bedford	23	PC	0.2	**
Belfast	16	C	1.0	3.7
Birmingham	19	R	1.0	**
Bournemouth	22	C	0.0	3.4
Bridlington	23	B	1.6	**
Bristol	18	C	0.0	2.9
Camborne	19	C	0.0	2.9
Cardiff	19	M	0.6	4.2
Edinburgh	17	C	6.0	1.8
Eskdalemuir	15	D	23.4	2.5
Glasgow	17	C	12.8	2.4
Hereford	20	C	1.6	**
Herstmonceux	23	PC	0.0	6.0
Ipswich	22	S	0.0	9.9
Isle of Man	17	C	9.4	1.6
Isle of Wight	22	PC	0.0	**
Jersey	**	**	**	**
Keswick	18	C	12.6	**
Kinloss	17	PC	11.2	0.9
Leeds	19	B	3.8	**
Lerwick	13	C	18.8	2.4
Leuchars	17	R	13.2	4.2
Lincoln	22	B	1.4	5.4
Liverpool	19	D	0.6	**
London	24	PC	0.0	5.8
Lyneham	20	C	0.0	3.3
Manchester	21	C	3.6	0.2
Margate	23	**	0.0	3.8
Milford Haven	19	C	1.0	**
Newcastle	18	C	13.4	**
Nottingham	21	C	0.4	0.9
Orkney	15	PC	5.8	0.0
Oxford	23	B	0.0	**
Plymouth	20	C	0.8	**
Portland	19	R	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	21	C	0.0	**
Shoreham	23	R	0.0	6.1
Shrewsbury	20	D	0.2	1.0
Snowdonia	17	D	3.6	**
Southend	24	S	0.0	8.3
South Uist	15	PC	20.6	**
Stornoway	14	R	14.6	0.0
Tiree	15	R	4.0	0.0
Whitehaven	17	C	32.0	2.5
Wick	15	PC	7.8	**
Yeovilton	21	C	0.4	2.7

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	30	S	Madeira	25	PC
Amsterdam	21	B	Madrid	23	PC
Athens	25	PC	Malaga	28	PC
Auckland	16	B	Mallorca	25	T
Bahrain	37	S	Malta	31	PC
Bangkok	32	PC	Melbourne	15	B
Barbados	32	PC	Mexico City	24	B
Barcelona	26	PC	Miami	31	**
Beijing	28	S	Milan	28	S
Beirut	30	PC	Mombasa	29	B
Belgrade	30	S	Montreal	16	C
Berlin	29	S	Moscow	17	PC
Bermuda	29	PC	Mumbai	31	**
Bordeaux	27	S	Munich	29	S
Brussels	27	S	Nairobi	23	B
Bucharest	26	S	Naples	30	S
Budapest	30	S	New Orleans	32	S
Buenos Aires	21	B	New York	23	PC
Cairo	37	S	Nice	27	S
Calcutta	33	**	Nicosia	32	PC
Canberra	16	S	Oslo	17	D
Cape Town	13	PC	Paris	24	S
Chicago	26	B	Perth	23	B
Copenhagen	17	M	Prague	27	S
Corfu	30	S	Reykjavik	9	S
Delhi	29	M	Riga	24	S
Dubai	41	S	Rio de Janeiro	28	S
Dublin	16	R	Riyadh	44	S
Faro	23	PC	Rome	28	S
Florence	32	S	San Francisco	23	PC
Frankfurt	28	S	Santiago	12	C
Geneva	30	S	São Paulo	23	B
Gibraltar	27	PC	Seoul	27	PC
Helsinki	20	B	Seychelles	28	PC
Hong Kong	28	SH	Singapore	30	B
Honolulu	31	B	St Petersburg	23	B
Istanbul	25	PC	Stockholm	16	DU
Jerusalem	36	S	Sydney	18	S
Johannesburg	27	S	Tel Aviv	36	S
Kuala Lumpur	32	PC	Tenerife	27	C
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	32	SH
Lanzarote	25	PC	Vancouver	23	B
Las Palmas	28	PC	Venice	27	S
Lima	19	PC	Vienna	28	S
Lisbon	24	SH	Warsaw	28	S
Los Angeles	28	PC	Washington	26	C
Luxor	40	S	Zurich	27	S

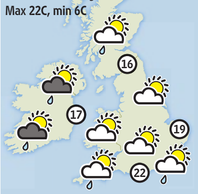
Five days ahead

Some showers or longer spells of rain, turning drier in northern areas later in the week

Tomorrow

Sunny spells with the chance of a few showers in coastal areas. Spells of rain will spread into northwest Scotland and Ireland through the afternoon.

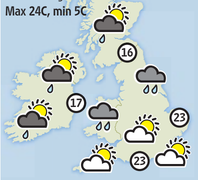
Max 22C, min 6C



Thursday

Spells of heavy rain will spread southeastwards across Ireland, Wales, Scotland and northern England. Dry with sunny spells in southern and eastern England.

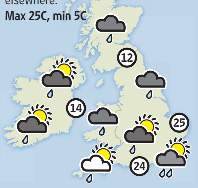
Max 24C, min 5C



Friday

Cloudy with outbreaks of rain in central and eastern Scotland, Wales and northern England. Sunny spells with scattered heavy showers elsewhere.

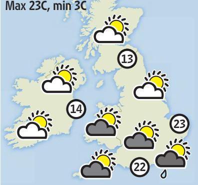
Max 25C, min 5C



Saturday

Partly cloudy in southern England and Wales with the chance of a few showers. Largely dry elsewhere with sunny spells.

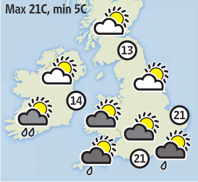
Max 23C, min 3C



Sunday

Sunny periods with the risk of a few showers in the far south of England, southern Ireland and south Wales. Outbreaks of rain in the far northwest of Scotland. Largely dry elsewhere.

Max 21C, min 5C

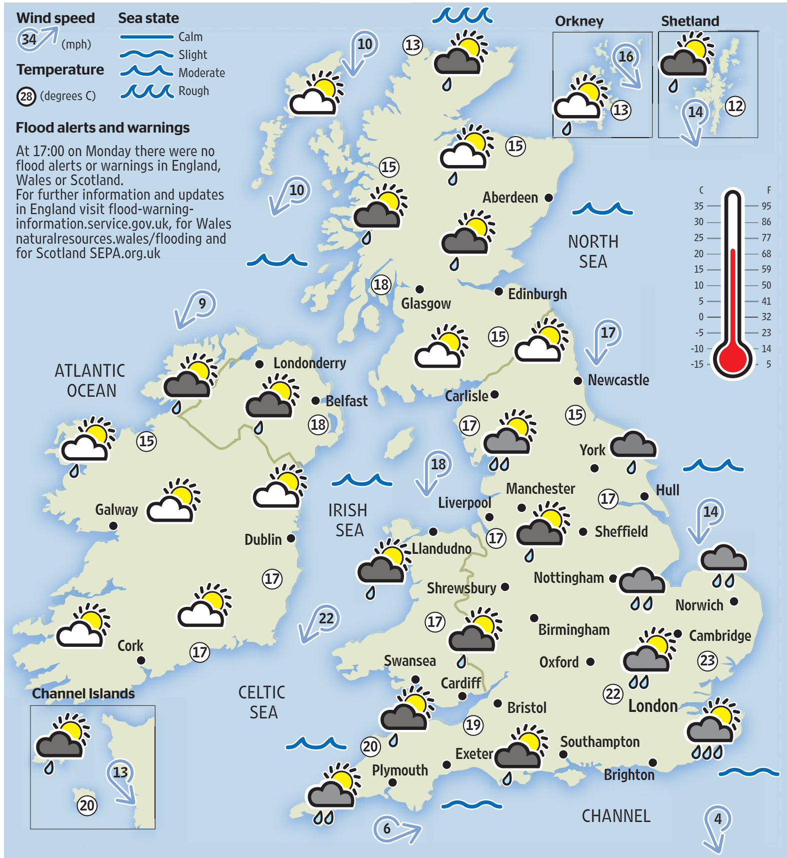


The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

Wind speed (mph) **Sea state** Calm, Slight, Moderate, Rough **Temperature** (degrees C)

Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Monday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

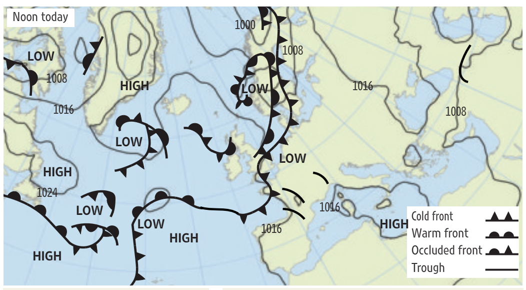


General situation: Showers or longer spells of rain in England and Wales. Sunny spells with the risk of a few isolated showers elsewhere.
London, SE Eng, E Anglia, SE Eng, Channel Is: Sunny intervals with the chance of a few slow-moving, heavy and perhaps thundery showers developing in the afternoon. A longer spell of rain will push into western parts of East Anglia in the afternoon. Light and variable winds. Maximum 24C (75F), minimum 10C (50F).
Wales, SW Eng, Mids, NW Eng, E Eng, NW Eng, Cen N Eng: A largely cloudy morning with spells of rain. It will turn brighter in the afternoon with a few showers in Wales, northwest England and southwest England, but it will remain cloudy with spells of rain elsewhere. Gentle to moderate north or northeasterly winds. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 7C (45F).
Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: Sunny spells with the risk of a few showers, especially in the north. Light to moderate northerly winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 3C (37F).
Lake District, NE Eng, IoM: Sunny periods with the chance of an isolated heavy shower. Gentle to moderate north or northeasterly winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 4C (39F).
Scotland: Sunny spells with the chance of a few showers, especially in central and northern areas. Light to moderate northwesterly winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 1C (34F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	--:--	--	13:16	3.7
Avonmouth	06:23	10.8	18:43	11.5
Belfast	10:52	3.0	22:54	3.4
Cardiff	06:21	10.2	18:37	10.9
Devonport	05:00	4.6	17:12	4.9
Dover	10:47	6.0	23:17	6.0
Dublin	11:20	3.6	23:20	3.9
Falmouth	04:36	4.3	16:51	4.7
Greenock	--:--	--	12:19	3.0
Harwich	11:02	3.6	23:33	3.8
Holyhead	10:08	4.8	22:15	5.2
Hull	05:27	6.4	18:06	6.4
Leith	02:00	4.8	14:31	4.9
Liverpool	10:48	8.1	22:59	8.5
London Bridge	--:--	--	13:22	6.1
Lowestoft	08:48	2.4	21:45	2.4
Milford Haven	05:44	5.8	18:01	6.2
Morecambe	10:59	8.0	23:10	8.5
Newhaven	10:43	5.9	22:57	5.9
Newquay	04:37	5.9	16:54	6.2
Oban	05:38	3.2	17:35	3.5
Penzance	04:09	4.6	16:26	5.0
Portsmouth	11:16	4.2	23:07	4.2
Shoreham	10:56	5.4	23:11	5.5
Southampton	00:31	3.8	12:58	4.1
Swansea	05:44	7.8	18:01	8.3
Tees	03:00	4.9	15:30	4.9
Weymouth	06:11	1.6	18:18	1.8



Synoptic situation

An occlusion in northwest Scotland will bring the risk of one or two isolated showers for Ireland and Scotland during the day but most places will have a dry day with spells of sunshine. A series of fronts across England and Wales will bring spells of heavy rain and showers, some of the showers may be thundery in the southeast of England.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Manston, Kent, 26.4C
Coldest: Aonach Mor, 4.7C
Wettest: Shap, Cumbria, 32.0mm
Sunniest: Wattisham, Suffolk, 9.9hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 06.30
Sun sets: 19.22
Moon rises: 03.08
Moon sets: 19.00
New Moon: September 15

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	20:06-06:04
Belfast	20:19-06:22
Birmingham	20:01-06:08
Cardiff	20:05-06:14
Exeter	20:06-06:16
Glasgow	20:14-06:14
Liverpool	20:06-06:11
London	19:53-06:02
Manchester	20:03-06:08
Newcastle	20:02-06:04
Norwich	19:48-05:55
Penzance	20:13-06:24
Sheffield	20:00-06:05

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



Even though July and August were a washout in the UK, the rains largely helped to avert water shortages and prevented hosepipe bans. However, the problem remains that water supplies over large parts of the country are facing a future where demand will outstrip supply, partly as a result of water pipe leakages that waste about a fifth of all treated water that runs through the networks.

Leaks can often occur when the pipes naturally expand and contract, a phenomenon made worse during very dry or freezing weather, and can be difficult to detect. One solution is to use specially trained dogs to sniff out the leaks. Springer spaniels have been taught to detect water leakages by recognising the difference between rainwater and treated water, which contains chlorine. The dogs are particularly useful in isolated rural locations, where most leaks never show above ground and can remain undetected for years. The dogs are walked along major roads where water mains are buried and lie down when they detect any traces of chlorine.

Recently, dogs have been used to detect leaks in district heating networks in the Netherlands. Such systems employ underground pipes to deliver hot water to houses, an energy efficient way of reducing carbon emissions that could also be used to deliver hot water from giant heat pumps, which have even lower carbon emissions. At present, water leaks are detected by thermal-imaging cameras, but the trained dogs can be more efficient.

A dog in Scotland has even been trained to detect faults in underground power cables, an issue that can lead to power cuts. The dog detects tiny amounts of oil and hydrocarbon gases that can seep out from flaws in the cables, even when buried 2m under tarmac. When a fault is detected the dog points to the location with one of its front paws.

Dogs can also tell the difference between warm objects of 30C and cooler objects, but so far this has been tested only at short range.

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Sport

ECB penalises Middlesex for financial mess

Cricket
Elizabeth Ammon

Middlesex have been found guilty of financial mismanagement "over a number of years" after an independent review.

They were found to have breached several ECB financial regulations and some conditions in their County Partnership Agreement, the contract between counties and the governing body that relates to annual dividends from the ECB's broadcasting deal.

The review found that the failings were the result of ineffective governance and a lack of oversight going back several years, mostly under the administration before Andrew Cornish became chief executive in 2021.

The county's payments from the ECB will be reduced by £150,000, although £100,000 of that is suspended until October 2025. Middlesex must also show their budgets up to that time and will have their spending limited on player salaries. Middlesex were also given suspended points deductions — equivalent to the maximum points for one win in each of the County Championship, One-Day Cup and T20 Blast (16, two and two, respectively) although these will be imposed only if Middlesex fail to comply with the new ECB conditions over the next two years.

Middlesex's executive committee must now also submit a full analysis of how it got into this situation.

The county and the ECB have been in a negotiations over the past few weeks, after the conclusion of the independent review instigated by the governing body. In a statement Middlesex said that they had already been investigating financial mismanagement before Cornish took over from Richard Goatley. Those investigations related to the club's failure to pay pension contributions to some contracted players — an error that cost the club about £500,000 to put right.

The Times understands there are no plans for the county to appeal against the ECB's sanctions. A Middlesex statement said: "We are extremely disappointed with the outcome of the ECB's investigation and the sanctions imposed upon us moving forwards; however, today's announcement from the ECB draws a line under the matter and we accept their findings that, historically, under previous administration, the club has been poorly financially managed over a number of years."

STEVE BARDENS/GETTY IMAGES



Cheteshwar Pujara, Jack Carson and Ari Karvelas, of Sussex, after taking the wicket of Rishi Patel during their Division Two match in Hove. As Leicestershire did not earn any batting bonus points, Durham secured their promotion to Division One

Durham win promotion to top flight

LV= County Championship
Elizabeth Ammon

Durham have been promoted to Division One of the County Championship for the first time since 2016, when they were relegated as part of sanctions imposed on them by the ECB after suffering serious financial issues.

Although Durham did not play a game this week, Leicestershire, who are third in the table, were unable to gain any batting bonus points against Sussex, meaning they cannot beat Durham's points tally of 198. As well as earning promotion, if they take five points from their remaining two games Durham will win Division Two.

"I was warming up with the second team and my phone was buzzing a lot," Ryan Campbell, the Durham head coach, said. "I saw that we'd been promoted which is obviously fantastic news for everyone here.

"A lot of hard work has gone into this team for a long time."

Durham's relegation in 2016 came as a result of a 48-point deduction from the ECB after the governing body had to bail them out to fend off bankruptcy, while their Chester-le-Street ground was stripped of its Test match status.

"You hear all the stories about what happened in 2016. Should it have gone that way? Probably not," Campbell said. "All we can do now is make sure this team stays where we think it belongs. We are not going to Division One just to survive, we are going to try and win the thing."

Durham had, like many other counties, got into substantial debt after bidding for Test matches (a process which has now been scrapped) and having to upgrade the ground to secure international cricket. The ECB agreed to help but with severe conditions attached, which included relegation, the points deduction for the 2017 season, no further Test matches and a cap on Durham's spending.

As a result, Durham lost many of their senior players and had to rebuild slowly within a tight financial budget.

They now have a strong squad which combines youth and experience, which has paid dividends this year.

Results and scoreboards

Football

European Championship qualifying
Group D

Armenia	(0) **0**	**Croatia**	(1) **1**
14,233		Kramaric 13	
Latvia	(0) **0**	**Wales**	(1) **2**
		Ramsey 29 (pen) Brooks 90+6	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Croatia	5	3	1	0	9	1	8	10
Turkey	5	3	1	1	8	6	2	10
Armenia	5	2	1	2	8	7	1	7
Wales	5	2	1	2	6	7	-1	7
Latvia	5	0	0	5	3	13	-10	0

Group J

Iceland	(0) **1**	**Bosnia-Herz**	(0) **0**
Finnbogason 90+1		5,229	
Portugal	(4) **9**	**Luxembourg**	(0) **0**
Inácio 12, 45+4 Gonçalo Ramos 17, 33, Jota 57, 77 Horta 67 Fernandes 83 João Félix 88			
Slovakia	(3) **3**	**Liechtenstein**	(0) **0**
Hancko 1, Duda 3 Mak 6		13,679	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Portugal	6	6	0	0	24	0	24	18
Slovakia	6	4	1	1	8	2	6	13
Luxembourg	6	3	1	2	7	16	-9	10
Bosnia-Herz	6	2	0	4	5	9	-4	6
Iceland	6	2	0	4	10	9	1	6
Liechtenstein	6	0	0	6	1	19	-18	0

European Under-21 Championship qualifying: Group two Spain 1 Scotland 0. **Group six** Luxembourg 0 England 3.

Cricket

LV= County Championship
Division One: Kent v Nottinghamshire

Canterbury (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 227 runs behind Kent

Kent First Innings (overnight 387-4)

*J A Leaning c Mullaney b Paterson	64
†H Z Finch c Moores b Paterson	47
J D M Evison c Moores b James	16
A S S Nijjar c sub b Hutton	12
N N Gilchrist c Hutton b James	2
M G Hogan not out	0
Y S Chahal c Moores b Hutton	0
Extras (b 14, lb 15, w 5)	34
Total (115.4 overs)	**446**

Fall of wickets 1-95, 2-248, 3-248, 4-307, 5-394, 6-411, 7-442, 8-446, 9-446.
Bowling Hutton 17.4-1-79-2; Fernando 21-3-75-1; Paterson 26-2-82-2; James 11-3-30-2; Harrison 24-1-103-2; Mullaney 16-2-48-1.

Nottinghamshire First Innings

B T Slater c Leaning b Hogan	0
H Hameed c Finch b Hogan	9
*S J Mullaney c Bell-Drummond b Nijjar	86
J M Clarke c Leaning b Nijjar	62
M Montgomery c Leaning b Chahal	16
†T J Moores b Nijjar	0
L W James b Chahal	1
C G Harrison c Leaning b Chahal	15
B A Hutton not out	9
D Paterson not out	10
Extras (lb 5, nb 6)	11
Total (8 wkts, 74 overs)	**219**

A M Fernando to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-0, 2-29, 3-160, 4-169, 5-173, 6-174, 7-199, 8-206.
Bowling Hogan 13-3-31-2; Gilchrist 16-2-60-0; Chahal 20-6-52-3; Evison 5-0-30-0; Nijjar 20-6-41-3.
Umpires M Burns and P R Pollard.

Lancashire v Middlesex

Emirates Old Trafford (second day of four): Lancashire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 62 runs behind Middlesex

Middlesex First Innings (overnight 132-8)

S D Robson b Wells	86
*T S Roland-Jones c Wells b Wood	26
E R Bamber not out	8
Extras (lb 5, nb 4)	9
Total (79.5 overs)	**194**

Fall of wickets 1-4, 2-5, 3-16, 4-18, 5-19, 6-83, 7-120, 8-130, 9-174.
Bowling Bailey 19-8-38-3; Williams 21-7-39-2; Wood 19-3-52-3; Balderson 12-4-40-1; Hartley 2-0-3-0; Wells 6.5-2-17-1.

Lancashire First Innings

L W P Wells not out	65
*K K Jennings lbw b De Caires	29
J J Bohannon b Yadav	7
†P D Salt b De Caires	0
D J Vilas not out	23
Extras (lb 2, nb 6)	8
Total (3 wkts, 42 overs)	**132**

G J Bell, G P Balderson, T W Hartley, T E Bailey, W S A Williams and L Wood to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-80, 2-93, 3-96.
Bowling Bamber 10-4-11-0; Higgins 8-1-35-0; Roland-Jones 3-0-19-0; Yadav 13-4-38-1; De Caires 8-2-27-2.
Umpires D J Millns and N A Mallender.

Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

Edgbaston (second day of four): Warwickshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 108 runs behind Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire First Innings (overnight 200-5)

S A Zaib c Burgess b Hannon-Dalby	10
†L D McManus c Burgess b Rushworth	25
T A I Taylor c Hain b Hannon-Dalby	10
S C Kerrigan lbw b Hannon-Dalby	2
B W Sanderson not out	13
C J White b Hannon-Dalby	0
Extras (b 6, lb 12, nb 2)	20
Total (94.4 overs)	**250**

Fall of wickets 1-5, 2-24, 3-171, 4-181, 5-182, 6-217, 7-233, 8-233, 9-250.
Bowling Hannon-Dalby 26.4-10-46-7; Rushworth 23-3-71-2; Miles 15-3-41-0; Barnard 15-4-36-1; Rhodes 9-2-26-0; Briggs 6-2-12-0.

Warwickshire First Innings

R M Yates c Azad b Procter	23
K C Brathwaite c McManus b White	9
*W M H Rhodes c Zaib b White	44
S R Hain lbw b White	30
D R Mousley not out	20
E G Barnard not out	4
Extras (lb 2, nb 10)	12
Total (4 wkts, 55 overs)	**142**

†M G K Burgess, D R Briggs, C N Miles, C Rushworth and O J Hannon-Dalby to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-23, 2-62, 3-117, 4-124.
Bowling Sanderson 16-5-26-0; White 15-5-37-3; Taylor 15-3-53-0; Procter 9-2-24-1.
Umpires N Pratt and R J Bailey.

Division Two: Glamorgan v Yorkshire

Sophia Gardens (second day of four): Glamorgan, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 350 runs behind Yorkshire

Yorkshire First Innings (overnight 330-3)

*S M Khan c Northeast b Harris	192
G C H Hill lbw b Harris	71
†J A Tattersall c Cooke b Gorvin	6
M L Revis b Carlson	28
D M Bess not out	28
J A Thompson lbw b Harris	0
B O Coad c Ingram b Carlson	4
B M Cliff run out	1
Extras (b 5, lb 12, nb 8)	25
Total (122 overs)	**500**

Fall of wickets 1-98, 2-225, 3-240, 4-372, 5-393, 6-446, 7-482, 8-482, 9-495.
Bowling McIlroy 25-5-65-2; Harris 28-0-131-3; Kellaway 7-0-21-0; Ul-Hassan 12-0-50-0; Gorvin 16-1-69-1; Carlson 34-1-147-3.

Glamorgan First Innings

Z Ul-Hassan b Coad	8
E J Byrom c Bean b Revis	40
C A Ingram b Thompson	5
S A Northeast b Bess	16
*K S Carlson not out	53
W T Root c Tattersall b Revis	4
†C B Cooke lbw b Revis	4
D A Douthwaite not out	17
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	**150**

B I Kellaway, J A R Harris, A W Gorvin and J P McIlroy to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-10, 2-19, 3-66, 4-82, 5-96, 6-100.
Bowling Coad 8-3-8-1; Thompson 9-0-30-1; Cliff 8-1-41-0; Bess 17-4-40-1; Revis 5-0-20-3; Hill 3-0-10-0.
Umpires M Newell and P J Hartley.

Gloucestershire v Derbyshire

Bristol (second day of four): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 116 runs behind Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire First Innings (overnight 333-6)

O J Price c and b Dal	132
E W O Middleton lbw b Dal	9
J Shaw c and b Conners	18
D C Goodman c Guest b Dal	6
L A Charlesworth not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 7, nb 8)	19
Total (97.1 overs)	**377**

Fall of wickets 1-80, 2-85, 3-128, 4-169, 5-326, 6-332, 7-341, 8-366, 9-376.
Bowling Conners 24-5-81-1; Brown 10-0-62-1; Dal 23.1-4-69-6; Reece 11-2-31-2; Thomson 12-0-54-0; Watt 17-1-69-0.

Derbyshire First Innings

H R C Came lbw b L A Charlesworth	68
L M Reece c Khan b Goodman	77
†B D Guest run out	15
W L Madsen lbw b Khan	11
*J L du Plooy not out	44
M J Lamb c Dent b Khan	24
S Conners c Bracey b Khan	0
A K Dal not out	3
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 2, nb 12)	19
Total (6 wkts, 75 overs)	**261**

M R J Watt, A T Thomson and P R Brown to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-132, 2-169, 3-177, 4-203, 5-252, 6-255.
Bowling Shaw 13-1-50-0; Goodman 11-2-49-1; Khan 25-4-68-3; Charlesworth 10-2-44-1; Middleton 11-1-33-0; Price 5-1-12-0.
Umpires T Lungley and J Shantry.

Sussex v Leicestershire

Hove (second day of four): Sussex, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 388 runs ahead of Leicestershire

Sussex First Innings 262 (F J Hudson-Prentice 65; M E T Salisbury 5 for 73)

Second Innings

T G R Clark lbw b Ahmed	69
T J Haines c Hill b Wright	34
T P Alsop b Ahmed	31
*C A Pujara c Cox b Scriven	23
J M Coles not out	43
†O J Carter st Cox b Scriven	16
F J Hudson-Prentice not out	15
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (5 wkts, 72 overs)	**234**

Fall of wickets 1-49, 2-109, 3-156, 4-170, 5-210.
Bowling Wright 15-0-54-1; Salisbury 6-2-22-0; Currie 11-1-39-0; Scriven 13-3-30-2; Ackermann 4-0-15-0; Ahmed 21-2-72-2; Amin 2-1-1-0.

Leicestershire First Innings (overnight 68-2)

R K Patel c Pujara b Karvelas	48
C N Ackermann b Unadkat	22
U Amin c Carter b Unadkat	2
R Ahmed c Carter b Karvelas	0
†O B Cox b Karvelas	0
T A R Scriven c Carter b Hudson-Prentice	12
C J C Wright b Hudson-Prentice	0
S W Currie not out	9
M E T Salisbury c Haines b Unadkat	0
Extras (b 2, lb 2)	4
Total (42.4 overs)	**108**

Fall of wickets 1-10, 2-48, 3-73, 4-75, 5-76, 6-78, 7-93, 8-93, 9-107.
Bowling Unadkat 12.4-3-23-3; Karvelas 12-5-14-4; Hudson-Prentice 10-2-30-2; Haines 7-0-33-1; Crocombe 1-0-4-0.
Umpires P K Baldwin and B J Debenham.

Asia Cup: Pakistan v India

Colombo (Pakistan won toss): India (2pts) beat Pakistan by 228 runs

India		(balls)
*R G Sharma c Ashraf b Khan	56	(49)
S Gill c Salman b Afridi	58	(52)
V Kohli not out	122	(94)
K L Rahul not out	111	(106)
Extras (w 8, nb 1)	9	
Total (2 wkts, 50 overs)	**356**	

†I P K P Kishan, H H Pandya, R A Jadeja, K Yadav, S N Thakur, Mohammed Siraj and J J Bumrah did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-121, 2-123.
Bowling Afridi 10-0-79-1; Shah 9.2-1-53-0; Ashraf 10-0-74-0; Rauf 5-0-27-0; Khan 10-1-71-1; Ahmed 5.4-0-52-0.

Pakistan		(balls)
Fakhar Zaman b Yadav	27	(50)
Imam-ul-Haq c Gill b Bumrah	9	(18)
*Babar Azam b Pandya	10	(24)
†Mohammad Rizwan c Rahul b Thakur	2	(5)
Agha Salman lbw b Yadav	23	(32)
Iftikhar Ahmed c and b Yadav	23	(35)
Shadab Khan c Thakur b Yadav	6	(10)
Faheem Ashraf b Yadav	4	(12)
Shaheen Shah Afridi not out	7	(6)
Naseem Shah absent hurt	—	
Haris Rauf absent hurt	—	
Extras (lb 3, w 14)	17	
Total (32 overs)	**128**	

Fall of wickets 1-17, 2-43, 3-47, 4-77, 5-96, 6-110, 7-119, 8-128.
Bowling Bumrah 5-1-18-1; Siraj 5-0-23-0; Pandya 5-0-17-1; Thakur 4-0-16-1; Yadav 8-0-25-5; Jadeja 5-0-26-0.
Umpires C B Gaffaney (New Zealand) and R S A Palliyaguruge (Sri Lanka).

Women's T20 World Cup qualifier

Almeria Scotland 122-7 (20 overs: S J Bryce 49); Netherlands 63 (15.3 overs: D Carter 3 for 11). ***Scotland (2pts) won by 59 runs***.

Golf

LPGA Kroger Queen City Championship

Cincinnati: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): **272** Lee Min-jee (Aus) 67, 69, 65, 71; C Hull (Eng) 67, 68, 68, 69 (Lee won play-off at second extra hole). **274** Yin Ruoning (China) 68, 66, 73, 67. **276** A Ewing 69, 70, 71, 66. **277** Y Saso (Japan) 69, 66, 70, 72; A Jutanugarn (Tha) 69, 69, 68, 71; M Metraux (Swi) 68, 66, 70, 73; M Reid (Eng) 71, 69, 71, 66; Lee Mi-hyang (S Kor) 74, 68, 68, 67; Chien Peiyun (Taiwan) 66, 64, 73, 74.

Snooker

Shanghai Masters

First round (China unless stated; *denotes amateur): Fan Zhengyi bt G Wilson (Eng) 6-2; J Higgins (Scot) bt *Deng Haohui 6-0; H Vafaei (Iran) bt *Gong Chenzhi 6-1; A Carter (Eng) bt *Dong Zihao 6-2; Ding Junhui bt Si Jiahui 6-2; J Lisowski (Eng) bt Zhou Yuelong 6-5.

Tennis

US Open

Flushing Meadows, New York: Finals (seeds in brackets): **Men: Singles** (2) N Djokovic (Serbia) bt (3) D Medvedev (Russ) 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3. **Women: Doubles** (16) G Dabrowski (Can) and E Routliffe (NZ) bt (12) L Siegemund (Ger) and V Zvonareva (Russ) 7-6 (11-9), 6-3.

WTA Kinoshita Group Japan Open

Osaka: First round N Podoroska (Arg) bt Yuan Yue (China) 6-4, 3-6, 7-5; Y Putintseva (Kaz) bt D Shnaider 6-2, 6-3; A Krueger (US) bt K Baindl (Ukr) 6-2, 6-3; V Savinykh bt A-L Friedsam (Ger) 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

Fixtures

Football

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

International match Scotland v England.

European Championship qualifying: Group A Norway v Georgia; Spain v Cyprus. **Group C** Italy v Ukraine; Malta v North Macedonia. **Group I** Israel v Belarus; Romania v Kosovo; Switzerland v Andorra. **Group F** Belgium v Estonia; Sweden v Austria.

European U-21 Championship qualifying: Group six Ukraine v Northern Ireland (5.30). **Group nine** Lithuania v Wales (4.0).

Papa John's EFL Trophy Notts Co v Wolves U-21; Peterborough v Cambridge Utd (7.0).

Cricket

LV= County Championship: Third day of four (10.30; 96 overs minimum): **Division One: Canterbury** Kent v Nottinghamshire. **Emirates Old Trafford** Lancashire v Middlesex. **Edgbaston** Warwickshire v Northamptonshire. **Division Two: Sophia Gardens** Glamorgan v Yorkshire. **Bristol** Gloucestershire v Derbyshire. **Hove** Sussex v Leicestershire.

Second women's one-day international: Northampton England v Sri Lanka (12.30).

Tennis

Davis Cup finals, group B: AO Arena, Manchester France v Switzerland (1.0).

Lancashire pegged back by De Caires

LV= County Championship

Paul Edwards, Neville Scott

Josh de Caires proved the timeless truth of a straight ball having a lethal quality to it by taking two key wickets to dent Lancashire's progress and help Middlesex in their fight against relegation.

By yesterday afternoon Keaton Jennings and Luke Wells had guided their side serenely to 80 without loss and the home side trailed Middlesex by only 114 runs. At which point, De Caires began his spell and sent down an accurate arm-ball on a good length. Lancashire's left-handed opener Jennings played forward, the ball thudded into his pad and David Millns sent him on his way. Four overs later, De Caires, inveigled Phil Salt to play inside a subtly flighted but similarly lethal delivery and the England one-day batsman departed for a golden duck. What was even better for Middlesex was that Jayant Yadav had by then marked his debut for the county by bowling Josh Bohannon for seven.

Rain came and Lancashire were 132 for three at the close with Wells batting ominously well on 65 not out. But De Caires' wickets had given his side hope.

"We joked that Jay would do them with the spin and then they'd expect me to spin it, but it would just skid on," De Caires, 21, said. "It was a fun period."

To the delight of devotees of the arcane at Edgbaston, **Northamptonshire** achieved a batting point just before lunch, something beyond them in eight of their other games. Oliver Hannon-Dalby then claimed the final two wickets with the next two balls to return career-best figures of seven for 46 and dismiss Northamptonshire for 250.

It was also tough going for **Warwickshire**. By the time Kraigg Brathwaite fell to a superb surprise lifter from Jack White for nine from 46 balls in the reply, 49 overs since after tea on Sunday had brought only 92 runs. White claimed two more wickets as the home side closed on 142 for four.

Desert Hero to bid for more royal success in St Leger

Racing Desert Hero became the first horse since the accession of King Charles III to carry the royal silks to victory at Royal Ascot and will bid for another piece of history in the St Leger at Doncaster on Saturday.

The colt was one of just nine horses still entered for the final classic of the season at yesterday's declaration stage and is rated the 5-1 third favourite. If successful, he would be the first royal runner to win a classic since Dunfermline landed the same race for Queen Elizabeth II in 1977.

Trained in Newmarket by William Haggas, Desert Hero has won four of his six career starts. He followed up his Ascot victory with a group three success in the Gordon Stakes at Glorious Goodwood, where he beat Godolphin's Chesspiece by a neck.

He has improved since he stepped up in trip, landing both starts over a mile and a half, and seems likely to be better still over an extra two furlongs in the St Leger.

The betting is headed by Gregory, who will be a final classic mount for Frankie Dettori. Trained by the father-and-son team of John and Thady Gosden, he is the 9-4 favourite ahead of Aidan O'Brien's Continuous at 3-1. The latter had Gregory back in third when winning the Great Voltigeur Stakes at York last month but Gregory was unsuited by a drop in trip there, and will be better served by the stiffer test of stamina at York.

Leicester

Rob Wright

1.40 Haaf A Diamond (nap) **4.00** Letaba
2.15 Surveyor **4.35** Never Ending
2.50 Autumn Rose **5.10** Hurt You Never
3.25 Speeding Bullet

Going: good to firm
Draw: no advantage **Racing TV**

1.40 Handicap (£3,780: 1m 2f) (10 runners)

1 (9) 400-0 **KEMERTON** 33 I Williams 4-10-2 **C J Todd**
2 (10) 34303 **NONSUCH LAD** 16 (P,D) J Boyle 4-10-1 **C Howarth**
3 (7) 11051 **MR ZEE** 30 (CD) M Blake 6-9-13 **L Catton**
4 (5) 36353 **ICONIQUE** 10 R Menzies 5-9-10 **Elle-May Croot (3)**
5 (3) 36210 **FILLYFUDGE** 42 (BF,D) Miss A Murphy 4-9-9 **F Larson**
6 (8) 22644 **INVERINATE** 25 (BF) I Mohammed 3-9-8 **B Sayette**
7 (2) 52002 **TWILIGHT GUEST** 12 (P) G Margarson 3-9-7 **M Mortensen (7)**
8 (1) 20252 **BAY OF NAPLES** 15 (P,T) M Herrington 7-9-6 **C Planas**
9 (4) 35226 **HOT TEAM** 12 (V,D) P Morris 7-9-5 **B Loughnane**
10 (6) 05123 **HAAF A DIAMOND** 34 (BF,C) K Frost 3-9-0 **A Voikhansky**

9-2 Haaf A Diamond, 5-1 Nonsuch Lad, 6-1 Mr Zee, 13-2 Inverinate, Bay Of Naples, 7-1 Fillyfudge, 15-2 Twilight Guest, 10-1 Hot Team.

Rob Wright's choice: Haaf A Diamond was a fair third at Bath; this test will suit **Dangers:** Twilight Guest, Iconique

2.15 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,860: 7f) (14)

1 (9) **ELEGANT FRIEND** C Appleby 9-2 **W Buick**
2 (11) **LAKOTA SPIRIT** R Hannon 9-2 **S M Levey**
3 (3) 6 **LIA ROSE** 31 R Guest 9-2 **C Shepherd**
4 (10) 63 **LOKANA** 46 D O'Meara 9-2 **D Tudhope**
5 (4) 00 **MAMALOUKA** 10 (T) Miss A Murphy 9-2 **F Larson (3)**
6 (8) **MY DESERT QUEEN** K Ryan 9-2 **T Marquand**
7 (5) 0 **PARRSICOE** 16 M Appleby 9-2 **A Rawlinson**
8 (2) 5 **SARATOGA STAR** 25 C Hills 9-2 **J Crowley**
9 (1) **SOFT WINDS** C Appleby 9-2 **J Doyle**
10 (6) **SPIRITUAL** (H) J & T Gosden 9-2 **K Shoemark**
11 (14) 4 **SURVEYOR** 31 J Fanshawe 9-2 **D Muscutt**
12 (13) 0 **TUNEFUL** 45 G Boughey 9-2 **B Loughnane**
13 (7) **WARDA JAMILA** A Balding 9-2 **D Probert**
14 (12) 5 **WORD PLAY** 38 Sir M Stoute 9-2 **R Kingscote**

4-1 Surveyor, 9-2 Elegant Friend, 5-1 Soft Winds, 11-2 Spiritual, 13-2 Saratoga Star, 10-1 Lokana, 12-1 Word Play, Warda Jamila.

Wright choice: Surveyor was a good fourth in a higher grade at Newbury **Dangers:** Elegant FRiend, Spiritual

2.50 Nursery (2-Y-O: £3,780: 7f) (7)

1 (2) 0400 **ANONYMOUS GUEST** 14 G Margarson 9-9 **M Mortensen (7)**
2 (4) 6044 **LINE SHEET** 37 G Scott 9-9 **D Muscutt**
3 (6) 500 **RED CHATAN** 29 P Evans 9-8 **H Doyle**
4 (5) 30362 **MULLINS BEACH** 11 B Millman 9-7 **P J McDonald**
5 (1) 052 **AUTUMN ROSE** 10 A Carroll 9-6 **T Marquand**
6 (3) 000 **MAD PUNTER** 12 B Meehan 9-6 **S M Levey**
7 (7) 336 **ARIZONA DESERT** 49 (T) D F Davis 9-4 **Doubtful**

2-1 Mullins Beach, 7-2 Autumn Rose, 4-1 Line Sheet, 5-1 Red Chatan, 7-1 Mad Punter, 12-1 Anonymous Guest.

Wright choice: Autumn Rose shaped well when fourth at Chester on his first try at this trip **Danger:** Red Chatan

3.25 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,860: 7f) (11)

1 (6) **AL SHABAB STORM** A Balding 9-2 **R Kingscote**
2 (9) **BLUE LEMONS** R Hannon 9-2 **S M Levey**
3 (10) **BRAVE CALL** H Main 9-2 **Gina Mangan (3)**
4 (5) **CIRO DI MARZIO** R Beckett 9-2 **Rossa Ryan**
5 (1) 22 **COOL DIVIDEND** 30 C Cox 9-2 **T Marquand**
6 (3) 66 **IPPOTHEOS** 33 (T) P & O Cole 9-2 **M Tabti (5)**
7 (2) 5 **LIVEANDLETLIVE** 23 W Muir & C Grassick 9-2 **C Shepherd**
8 (11) 6 **MAPLE** 68 Sir M Stoute 9-2 **R Clutterbuck**
9 (8) 44 **MIDNITE STORM** 25 K Ryan 9-2 **K Stott**
10 (4) **PLACO** J & T Gosden 9-2 **K Shoemark**
11 (7) 02 **SPEEDING BULLET** 18 R Hannon 9-2 **W Buick**

5-2 Cool Dividend, 5-1 Liveandletlive, 6-1 Ciro Di Marzio, 13-2 Placo, 15-2 Speeding Bullet, 8-1 Midnite Storm, 12-1 Al Shabab Storm, Blue Lemons.

Wright choice: Speeding Bullet was a good second at Ffos Las; can go one better **Dangers:** Cool Dividend, Ciro Di Marzio

4.00 Handicap (£4,320: 1m 4f) (7)

1 (4) 03362 **HAARAR** 40 (V) M Bell 4-10-1 **H Crouch**
2 (3) 60/04 **BYZANTINE EMPIRE** 18 (T) F O'Brien 6-9-8 **D Tudhope**
3 (2) 03242 **WATERLOO SUNSET** 22 D Coakley 5-9-8 **G Bass (3)**
4 (1) 0-246 **SEA OF CHARM** 48 (P) Georgina Nicholls 5-9-7 **R Hornby**
5 (6) 34423 **TARRAFF** 36 (T) S & E Crisford 3-9-6 **J Doyle**
6 (7) 06605 **TOTAL LOCKDOWN** 17 (H) Martin Dunne 4-9-6 **D Keenan**
7 (5) 65426 **LETABA** 30 (B,BF) E Dunlop 3-9-4 **R Havlin**

2-1 Tarraff, 3-1 Haarar, 5-1 Waterloo Sunset, 11-2 Letaba, 7-1 Sea Of Charm, 12-1 Byzantine Empire, 20-1 Total Lockdown.

Wright choice: Letaba was below par at Windsor but can return to form with blinkers back on **Danger:** Haarar

4.35 Handicap (£7,851: 1m 2f) (12)

1 (3) 66011 **ZARABANDA** 36 (D) D O'Meara 4-10-4 **D Tudhope**
2 (11) 1-201 **MISS BLUEBELLE** 20 (H,D) M Tregoning 4-10-0 **D Costello**
3 (8) 36-03 **THEBEAUTIFULGAME** 23 Tom Clover 4-9-12 **L Morris**
4 (4) /32-2 **LOVE YOU GRANDPA** 92 (BF) Sir M Stoute 4-9-11 **R Kingscote**
5 (2) 41000 **DOUBLE MARCH** 38 (D) S P C Woods 3-9-11 **T Marquand**
6 (7) -4335 **MLLE CHANEL** 33 A Balding 3-9-8 **D Probert**
7 (12) -2155 **NEVER ENDING** 41 J & T Gosden 3-9-7 **R Havlin**
8 (9) 41132 **OH SO GRAND** 15 (D) S & E Crisford 3-9-7 **J Doyle**
9 (10) 602 **AVON LIGHT** 25 W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-5 **P J McDonald**
10 (1) 3-36 **FLYING CIRCUS** 108 M Botti 3-9-1 **H Crouch**
11 (5) 44110 **ABSOLUTE QUEEN** 57 (P,D) G Boughey 3-9-1 **W Buick**
12 (6) 12321 **AL HARGAH** 25 (B,C,D) R Hannon 3-8-11 **S M Levey**

5-1 Love You Grandpa, 6-1 Zarabanda, 7-1 Oh So Grand, Never Ending, 8-1 Miss Bluebelle, Al Hargah, 10-1 Mlle Chanel, Avon Light.

Wright choice: Never Ending failed to handle heavy ground at Goodwood last time **Dangers:** Al Hargah, Zarabanda

5.10 Handicap (£4,320: 5f) (8)

1 (1) 31241 **MOULIN BOOJ** 6 (D) G Scott 3-10-2(6ex) **D Muscutt**
2 (6) 00051 **LEODIS DREAM** 10 (D) P Midgley 7-9-13 **D Tudhope**
3 (8) 41100 **INDIAN SOUNDS** 26 (D) P Midgley 7-9-11 **Elle-May Croot (7)**
4 (5) 54065 **STONE OF DESTINY** 17 (B,H,D) M Appleby 8-9-9 **T Marquand**
5 (2) 11124 **HURT YOU NEVER** 16 (C) Adrian Nicholls 4-9-9 **Mia Nicholls (7)**
6 (3) 03540 **SECRET MISTRAL** 10 A Carroll 3-9-9 **H Doyle**
7 (7) 04000 **FRISKY** 158 (CD) J Butler 4-9-6 **F Larson (3)**
8 (4) 65302 **THE GREY LASS** 14 (D) M & D Easterby 4-8-7 **S Gray**

9-4 Moulin Booj, 100-30 Hurt You Never, 4-1 Leodis Dream, 11-2 The Grey Lass, 10-1 Stone Of Destiny, 12-1 Secret Mistral, Indian Sounds, 33-1 Frisky.

Wright choice: Hurt You Never could be suited by this drop to the minimum trip **Dangers:** Secret Mistral, Moulin Booj

Catterick

Rob Wright

1.30 Sameem **3.40** Prince Achille
2.05 Ravenglass **4.15** Vadamiah
2.40 O G Beachwear **4.50** Eagle Day
3.10 Langholm

Going: good to soft, good in places
Draw: no advantage **Racing TV**

1.30 Handicap (£3,974: 1m 6f) (5)

1 (1) 51115 **LET HER LOOSE** 15 (C) A Watson 6-11-3 **Miss B Hampson**
2 (3) 20420 **CAPTAIN HADDOCK** 15 (B) H Main 6-10-8 **Miss V Barton**
3 (4) 03-03 **GIFT OF RAAJ** 153 (CD) R Fell & S Murray 8-10-7 **Miss Ay Collier (3)**
4 (5) 66350 **SAMEEM** 5 (P) T Easterby 7-10-0 **Mrs E Roberts**
5 (2) 62140 **LOCHNAVER** 54 (H) J Goldie 5-9-11 **Miss A Keighley (3)**

5-4 Let Her Loose, 4-1 Captain Haddock, 5-1 Gift Of Raaj, 11-2 Sameem, 6-1 Lochnaver.

2.05 Handicap (£4,004: 7f) (14)

1 (11) 42141 **MUTANAASEQ** 22 (CD) R Carr 8-9-11 **JP Sullivan**
2 (14) 52646 **RAVENGLASS** 22 (P) A Wintle 4-9-9 **T Eaves**
3 (2) U6156 **MISS CALCULATION** 146 (D) J J Quinn 4-9-7 **J Hart**
4 (6) 32340 **SAISONS D'OR** 14 (CD) J O'Keeffe 8-9-6 **J Garritty**
5 (12) 01400 **OBEE JO** 22 (P,CD) T Easterby 7-9-3 **D Allan**
6 (10) -0000 **FROG AND TOAD** 99 (P,T,D) M Walford 5-9-3 **S James**
7 (8) 62261 **GALILEO GLASS** 10 (V,D) P Evans 4-9-2 **B Curtis**
8 (7) 02620 **MAGICAL EFFECT** 22 (V,CD) R Carr 11-9-0 **A Mullen**
9 (5) 66442 **WITHOUT DELAY** 13 (P,BF) T Waggott 4-8-13 **C Beasley**
10 (4) 52030 **ROUND THE ISLAND** 53 (P,CD) Simon Whitaker 10-8-13 **S B Kirrane**
11 (9) 12004 **LIBERTY BREEZE** 15 (CD) Simon Whitaker 5-8-12 **M Winn (3)**
12 (1) 56031 **HOT SCOOP** 13 (P,T,CD) S England 5-8-11 **R Sexton (3)**
13 (3) 31400 **REVOQUABLE** 13 (D) T Easterby 4-8-10 **D Fentiman**
14 (13) 00003 **SECRET DAAY** 13 (B) D Thompson 4-8-5 **C Hardie**

7-2 Galileo Glass, 5-1 Mutanaaseq, 7-1 Without Delay, Hot Scoop, 10-1 Saisons D'Or, 12-1 Ravenglass, Magical Effect, Liberty Breeze.

2.40 Novice Stakes (£4,320: 6f) (4)

1 (2) 66500 **CHATTEL VILLAGE** 17 B Ellison 3-9-7 **B Robinson**
2 (1) 00- **THE SPINMEISTER** 327 (H) T Collier 3-9-7 **W Pyle (5)**
3 (4) 023 **DELLA** 132 (H) A Balding 3-9-2 **B Curtis**
4 (3) 4432 **O G BEACHWEAR** 35 (BF) H Palmer 3-9-2 **J Hart**

4-6 O G Beachwear, 5-4 Della, 33-1 Chattel Village, 100-1 The Spinmeister.

3.10 Handicap (£4,004: 6f) (10)

1 (1) 40001 **ONE MORE DREAM** 13 (CD) J J Quinn 4-9-12 **G Sanna (5)**
2 (10) 25145 **ALL IN THE HIPS** 10 (V,D) P Evans 3-9-12 **B Curtis**
3 (8) 01000 **REDROSEZORRO** 22 (H,CD) C Kellett 9-9-10 **J Hart**
4 (7) 05203 **HAVANA RUM** 11 (V,D) R Fahey 3-9-7 **D Nolan**
5 (9) 26060 **SOUTH DAKOTA SIOUX** 31 (D) D O'Meara 3-9-7 **M Winn**
6 (3) 0D233 **LANGHOLM** 13 (T,C,D) M Dods 7-9-6 **C Beasley**
7 (5) 65500 **GUNNERSIDE** 13 (D) G Tuer 6-9-5 **O Stammers**
8 (2) 05600 **GUEST LIST** 15 (B) K Scott 4-8-13 **S James**
9 (6) 13042 **WADE'S MAGIC** 7 (P,CD) T Easterby 6-8-13 **D Allan**
10 (4) 40060 **KOROPICK** 32 (T,D) C Teague 9-8-7 **Paula Muir (3)**

4-1 One More Dream, 9-2 Wade's Magic, Langholm, 5-1 Havana Rum, 7-1 All In The Hips, 12-1 Guest List, Gunnerside, 14-1 others.

3.40 Handicap (£4,004: 1m 4f) (15)

1 (5) 22250 **HAVEN LADY** 17 (B,CD) J J Quinn 5-10-2 **J Hart**
2 (15) 35114 **THIS ONES FOR FRED** 12 (CD) P Evans 5-10-1 **B Curtis**
3 (10) 05646 **THE DANCING POET** 13 (CD) B Ellison 7-10-0 **B Robinson**
4 (6) 60053 **PERIPETEIA** 85 (D) P Kirby 5-9-13 **C Beasley**
5 (2) 63123 **JAMIL** 22 (T,CD) Miss T Jackson 8-9-13 **M Winn (3)**
6 (3) 03460 **WHERES THE CRUMPET** 62 (P) D Thompson 5-9-12 **D Allan**
7 (1) 53U05 **DEFENCE TREATY** 12 (P,T) N Twiston-Davies 7-9-12 **G Lee**
8 (11) 666 **J C INTERNATIONAL** 15 R Fell & S Murray 4-9-11 **J Peate (3)**
9 (8) 13220 **PRINCE ACHILLE** 4 J O'Keeffe 4-9-10 **J Garritty**
10 (9) 42405 **JAMIH** 13 (P,CD) Miss T Jackson 8-9-7 **R Sexton (3)**
11 (13) 36000 **KOVU** 14 P Niven 3-9-6 **C Hardie**
12 (7) -0030 **ACT OF WILL** 25 (P) D Brooke 3-9-4 **S James**
13 (12) 36334 **PROPAGATION** 13 D Sayer 5-9-4 **P Mulrennan**
14 (14) 03460 **TIBERIO FORCE** 25 (B) Simon Whitaker 4-9-1 **T Eaves**
15 (4) 000-0 **CAPLA QUEST** 12 M & D Easterby 3-8-6 **Joanna Mason**

5-1 Propagation, 11-2 Prince Achille, 6-1 Jamil, This Ones For Fred, 7-1 The Dancing Poet, 8-1 Peripeteia, Jamih, 16-1 others.

4.15 Handicap (£4,527: 5f) (9)

1 (6) 1-500 **VADAMIAH** 20 (CD) P Midgley 4-9-12 **G Lee**
2 (3) 40500 **HAVAGOMECCA** 32 (P,D) M Dods 5-9-11 **C Beasley**
3 (7) 50006 **PAPA DON'T PREACH** 11 (D) K Frost 4-9-10 **P Mulrennan**
4 (2) -0320 **CASTAN** 13 (CD) B Smart 3-9-9 **J Hart**
5 (9) 05322 **MURBIH** 3 (D) A Brittain 4-9-6 **C Hardie**
6 (1) 65010 **TEXAS MAN** 26 (CD) Craig Lidster 4-9-6 **W Pyle (5)**
7 (5) 40540 **JOJO RABBIT** 10 (P,D) R Carr 5-9-6 **JP Sullivan**
8 (8) 55522 **BIRKENHEAD** 15 (P,CD) P Midgley 6-9-5 **D Nolan**
9 (4) 60215 **ALBEGONE** 13 (B,BF,CD) T Easterby 5-9-1 **D Allan**

3-1 Birkenhead, 4-1 Murbih, 9-2 Albegone, 7-1 Castan, 8-1 Vadamiah, 10-1 Papa Don't Preach, 12-1 Havagomecca, Texas Man, Jojo Rabbit.

4.50 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,004: 7f) (8)

1 (6) -3540 **EAGLE DAY** 23 P Evans 9-11 **B Curtis**
2 (5) 65313 **WRECK IT RYLEY** 14 (B,BF,D) G Tuer 9-11 **S James**
3 (8) 0-006 **VINCE LE PRINCE** 31 (P,T,D) T Easterby 9-9 **D Allan**
4 (2) 30006 **COMMON ACCLAIM** 31 (P) T Easterby 9-7 **S B Kirrane**
5 (4) -1643 **HIGHFIELD VIKING** 31 J J Quinn 9-7 **J Hart**
6 (7) 06333 **VORTIGAN** 26 (V) M Dods 9-6 **C Beasley**
7 (1) 10005 **DANCE ANGEL** 11 (CD) D O'Meara 9-5 **M Winn (3)**
8 (3) 01200 **CUBAN ROCK** 14 (P) J Goldie 9-2 **P Mulrennan**

11-4 Wreck It Ryley, 4-1 Vortigan, Highfield Viking, 5-1 Cuban Rock, 8-1 Dance Angel, 10-1 Eagle Day, 14-1 Common Acclaim, 16-1 Vince Le Prince.

Kelso

Rob Wright

4.25 Ashington **6.05** Fusain
5.00 Caithness **6.35** Imperial Data
5.35 Bella Bliss **7.05** Jimmy Rabbitte

Going: good, good to firm in places **Racing TV**

4.25 Handicap Hurdle (£7,922: 3m 2f) (8)

1 -1133 **JUDICIAL LAW** 17 (P) Jonjo O'Neill 6-12-0 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
2 -0016 **DIDTHEYLEAVEUOUTTO** 52 (P) B Haslam 10-11-10 **R McLernon**
3 26444 **ASHINGTON** 13 (P) M Walford 8-11-8 **J Hamilton**
4 PPP1- **BURBANK** 138 (B) J Moffatt 11-11-8 **Charlotte Jones (3)**
5 1-6P1 **CZECH HER OUT** 42 L Russell 9-11-4 **P W Wadge (5)**
6 12661 **CAPTAIN TOMMY** 14 (P,T) I Williams 9-11-2 **B Hughes**
7 3422P **DINOLAND** 20 (P,T) J McConnell (Ire) 5-10-10 **J Hogan (3)**
8 -3340 **STARLYTE** 24 (P,T) L Russell 6-10-2 **Miss Roisin Leech (7)**

3-1 Czech Her Out, 7-2 Judicial Law, 4-1 Captain Tommy, 7-1 Ashington, Burbank, 8-1 Dinoland, 12-1 Starlyte, 16-1 Didtheyleaveuoutto.

5.00 Maiden Hurdle (£4,357: 2m) (9)

1 344- **CAITHNESS** 171 (BF) L Russell 7-11-4 **D R Fox**
2 0-020 **THE MASS PATH** 11 C Byrnes (Ire) 6-11-4 **P Byrnes (5)**
3 32 **CITY VAULTS** 17 J Moffatt 4-11-2 **Charlotte Jones (3)**
4 **MEKBAT** F35 S Corbett 4-11-2 **Doubtful**
5 34- **NOBLE ANTHEM** F16 (T) A Keatley 4-11-2 **B Hughes**
6 0 **SWASHBUCKLER** 17 (T) M Barnes 4-11-2 **C Rabbitt (5)**
7 P **GOLD TERMS** 42 (H) H Burns 5-10-11 **Sean Quinlan**
8 00-6 **KURPHY** 24 I Jardine 5-10-11 **Craig Nichol**
9 23-5 **WHOZATGIRL** 115 L Russell 4-10-9 **S Mulqueen**

5-2 Caithness, 11-4 The Mass Path, 3-1 Noble Anthem, 4-1 City Vaults, 8-1 Whozatgirl, 33-1 Kurphy, 66-1 Swashbuckler, 100-1 Gold Terms.

5.35 Handicap Chase (£7,922: 2m 7f) (3)

1 0-041 **PULL AGAIN GREEN** 22 (T) F O'Brien 7-11-10 **Doubtful**
2 4161- **JOHNSON'S BLUE** 206 M Walford 6-11-4 **J Hamilton**
3 16001 **BELLA BLISS** 15 (T,D) J McConnell (Ire) 6-10-11 **Mr A Harvey**

5-6 Johnson's Blue, Evens Bella Bliss.

6.05 Handicap Chase (£5,281: 2m 1f) (7)

1 1133- **FUSAIN** 139 (P,T) P Neville 8-12-0 **K Brogan**
2 33-61 **RAKHINE STATE** 58 D J Jeffreys 10-11-4 **T Bellamy**
3 30212 **SWORD OF FATE** 15 (D) L Kerr 10-10-13 **D R Fox**
4 51620 **RESTANDBETHANKFUL** 21 (P,T) R Menzies 7-10-12 **A Anderson (5)**
5 5-212 **FIRST REVOLUTION** 24 (D) M Todhunter 9-10-11 **S Quinlan**
6 22033 **MINELLA YOUNGY** 15 (P,T) I Jardine 5-10-5 **C Nichol**
7 -2164 **GETAWAY JEWEL** 52 (D) M Hammond 9-10-4 **B Hughes**

3-1 Rakhine State, 4-1 First Revolution, 9-2 Fusain, 5-1 Sword Of Fate, 13-2 Restandbethankful, 8-1 Getaway Jewel, Minella Youngy.

6.35 Maiden Hurdle (£4,357: 2m 5f) (8)

1 6-534 **BALLYQUIN BAY** 74 Mrs A C Hamilton 5-11-4 **J Hamilton**
2 **C THE BUNNY RUN** L Russell 6-11-4 **S Mulqueen**
3 4-5 **HERE COMES GEORGIE** 24 P Neville 5-11-4 **K Brogan**
4 1-222 **IMPERIAL DATA** 49 (W) R Menzies 6-11-4 **R Chapman**
5 2306- **JEM IN EM** 139 (T) L Russell 5-11-4 **D R Fox**
6 5-225 **JUMPING SUSIE** 15 J McConnell (Ire) 5-10-11 **Mr A Harvey**
7 /6P0- **LE FOU'S KEEP** 288 (W) H Burns 8-10-11 **S Quinlan**
8 0-400 **NOBLE ANNYS** 102 W Storey 5-10-11 **D McMenamin**

11-4 Jumping Susie, 100-30 Imperial Data, 4-1 Jem In Em, 9-2 Here Comes Georgie, 5-1 Ballyquin Bay, 12-1 C The Bunny Run, 25-1 others.

7.05 Handicap Hurdle (£4,753: 2m 5f) (7)

1 3PF-0 **ROWDY RUSTLER** 125 (P,T) L Russell 8-12-0 **D R Fox**
2 1000P **BALKALIN** 6 (T,CD) M Barnes 11-11-11 **C Rabbitt (5)**
3 PP-44 **CALL ME HARRY** 24 I Jardine 6-11-11 **D McMenamin**
4 -FP20 **I AM SPIDER MAN** 15 (BF) C Byrnes (Ire) 6-11-10 **P Byrnes (5)**
5 -2322 **JIMMY RABBITTE** 24 W Coltherd 10-11-8 **B Hughes**
6 -61P0 **AYR OF ELEGANCE** 19 (B,D) D J Jeffreys 11-11-2 **T Bellamy**
7 -2040 **DARKEST DAY** 24 (P,T) W Young Jnr 8-10-10 **J Hamilton**

13-8 I Am Spider Man, 9-4 Jimmy Rabbitte, 9-2 Call Me Harry, 8-1 Rowdy Rustler, 14-1 Darkest Day, 16-1 Ayr Of Elegance, 20-1 Balkalin.

Worcester

Rob Wright

1.50 Gone In Sixty **3.30** Come On Du Berlais
2.25 Shot Tower (nb) **4.05** Karavomylos
3.00 Izayte **4.40** Diana Prince

Going: good **Sky Sports Racing**

1.50 Handicap Chase (£3,406: 2m 110yd) (9)

1 -2561 **MUTUAL RESPECT** 46 (P,T,D) Billy Aprahamian 7-12-0 **H Bannister**
2 31-0P **METHUSALAR** 101 P Bowen 7-11-11 **S Bowen**
3 52-5P **GETAMAN** 71 (B,D) D J Jeffreys 10-11-10 **M Kendrick**
4 6-225 **HONNEUR DE SIVOLA** 65 (B,T) C Hobson 6-11-9 **H Cobden**
5 -3525 **GONE IN SIXTY** 24 (T) A Hales 6-10-12 **K Woods**
6 P50-6 **NEWTONIAN** 42 (W,T) M Sheppard 6-10-10 **R Patrick**
7 6-530 **MARTALMIX'JAC** 21 (P) M Rowley 6-10-7 **A Edwards**
8 154-P **ESTATE ITALIANA** 100 (T,D) Alexandra Dunn 6-10-6 **A Wedge**
9 P-P00 **LUSITANIEN** 41 F O'Brien 7-10-2 **J Best**

7-4 Mutual Respect, 6-1 Methusalar, 7-1 Gone In Sixty, 8-1 Honneur De Sivola, Getaman, Estate Italiana, 10-1 Martalmix'jac, Lusitanien, 25-1 Newtonian.

2.25 Handicap Chase (£4,859: 2m 4f) (7)

1 50-30 **VINNIE THE HODDIE** 39 (W,D) Miss G Haywood 9-12-0 **D Noonan**
2 U401- **IRON HEART** F34 (B,T) P Bowen 6-11-9 **S Bowen**
3 -4453 **MIX OF CLOVER** 12 (P) A Ralph 9-11-9 **A Edwards**
4 04223 **GLAJOU** 21 (P,T,C) N Mulholland 7-11-8 **B Carver**
5 164-0 **COLLEGE OAK** 42 J Snowden 8-11-4 **W Featherstone (10)**
6 0P-24 **BARI BREEZE** 19 (T) M Harris 8-10-10 **H Cobden**
7 0-602 **SHOT TOWER** 10 (T) Joe Ponting 7-10-8 **C Hammond**

7-2 Mix Of Clover, 4-1 Iron Heart, Glajou, Shot Tower, 6-1 Bari Breeze, 8-1 College Oak, 14-1 Vinnie The Hoddie.

3.00 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m 4f) (7)

1 10223 **IZAYTE** 14 N King 5-12-0 **J Quinlan**
2 2-P11 **POLICE ACADEMY** 22 (D) F O'Brien 6-11-13 **Mr B Sutton (7)**
3 2434- **BEN LILLY** 351 (P,T) D Pipe 6-11-8 **J Tudor**
4 22533 **PAINLESS POTTER** 21 S Lycett 5-11-4 **K Woods**
5 40-24 **ABRAAJ** 5 (V) S Pearce 5-11-1 **D Noonan**
6 465- **NICKELFORCE** 138 B Case 4-10-9 **H Bannister**
7 00P-6 **CLAUDE ALMIGHTY** 21 (B) Miss J Davis 6-10-4 **Tabitha Worsley (3)**

13-8 Police Academy, 7-2 Izayte, 5-1 Ben Lilly, 6-1 Painless Potter, 8-1 Abraaj, 12-1 Nickelforce, 20-1 Claude Almighty.

3.30 Maiden Hurdle (£4,357: 2m 4f) (9)

1 20-23 **COME ON DU BERLAIS** 42 D Killahena & G McPherson 5-11-2 **N Slatter (5)**
2 -5214 **FOUNTAINSPINKLADY** 14 (BF) A Honeyball 5-11-2 **S Twiston-Davies**
3 -6044 **HEDERA PARK** 39 (H) D Hamer 5-11-2 **H Cobden**
4 P2-62 **IMPRESSION CHIC** 14 R Hobson 5-11-2 **Lilly Pinchin (3)**
5 -03F5 **MAN AFTER MIDNIGHT** 17 (B,T) Louise G Lyons (Ire) 6-11-2 **S Bowen**
6 -S303 **MARVEL STAR** 33 A Ralph 5-11-2 **D E Mullins**
7 06/34 **PRESENTING NELLY** 54 (T) D Skelton 6-11-2 **H Skelton**
8 30-54 **QUICK OF THE NIGHT** 42 Dave Roberts 6-11-2 **L Edwards**
9 05-11 **SOUTHFIELD LILY** 107 (H) M Bradstock 7-11-2 **Miss L Bradstock (7)**

3-1 Come On Du Berlais, 4-1 Marvel Star, 9-2 Presenting Nelly, 6-1 Southfield Lily, Fountainspinklady, 12-1 Man After Midnight, Hedera Park, 14-1 others.

4.05 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m 7f) (10)

1 12P15 **HUNTING PERCIVAL** 12 Syd Hosie 8-12-0 **J Best**
2 /1P5- **CHIVES** 193 (BF,C) N Henderson 9-11-13 **N De Boinville**
3 3-0P6 **MR TAMBOURINE MAN** 13 (P,T) D Pipe 6-11-13 **J Tudor**
4 -2121 **NICKELSONTHEDIME** 51 (P,T) K Woollacott 9-11-12 **B Godfrey (3)**
5 1P232 **HARDY BOY** 19 (P,BF) B Pauling 6-11-9 **K Woods**
6 -6216 **HUNGRY HILL** 21 (P,D) Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-9 **N Scholfield**
7 11144 **POTTLERATH** 47 (P,T,CD) M Sheppard 8-11-5 **S Sheppard**
8 22131 **KARAVOMYLOS** 21 (P,CD) P Bowen 4-10-10 **S Bowen**
9 40-4P **RATFACEMCDOUGALL** 21 (B) D J Jeffreys 10-10-9 **M Kendrick**
10 R-5P6 **GETTHEPOT** 39 (P,T) D Killahena & G McPherson 8-10-4 **Bryony Frost**

100-30 Karavomylos, 4-1 Nickelsonthedime, 5-1 Hardy Boy, 7-1 Chives, Hungry Hill, 8-1 Hunting Percival, 14-1 others.

4.40 Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 2m) (11)

1 -3250 **THORPENESS** 46 (H,T) B Summers 5-12-0 **H Kimber**
2 33-5U **GRAFFITI** 42 (BF) G Brown 4-11-13 **Isabelle Ryder (10)**
3 -P350 **EMBOLDEN** 24 C Hobson 6-11-9 **B Roberts (3)**
4 3P34/ **FOXEY** 777 (H) O Murphy 8-11-9 **L Stones**
5 -55P1 **EMANATE** 54 (P,CD) N Mulholland 5-11-2 **T Eyston (8)**
6 -6015 **DIANA PRINCE** 24 (BF) P Midgley 7-10-12 **T Midgley**
7 -0665 **TEN TEN TWENTY** 13 (P,CD) D J Jeffreys 5-10-10 **Lilly Pinchin**
8 04036 **COASTAL SUN** 21 (H,T,D) J Snowden 5-10-4 **W Featherstone (10)**
9 0U5P2 **ONNAROLL** 11 (H) Cynthia Woods 5-10-4 **P Armson**
10 P0555 **AFRICAN SUN** 11 (P,D) Joanne Thomason-Murphy 6-10-2 **C Leonard**
11 35406 **MAWLOOD** 42 (W,T) Georgie Howell 7-10-2 **Tabitha Worsley**

3-1 Emanate, 9-2 Diana Prince, 5-1 Graffiti, 7-1 Foxey, Coastal Sun, 10-1 Onnaroll, Ten Ten Twenty, 12-1 Embolden.

Blinkered first time: Catterick 3.10 Guest List. **Worcester** 1.50 Honneur De Sivola. 3.00 Claude Almighty. 3.30 Man After Midnight.

Yesterday's racing results

Brighton

Going: good (good to firm in places)

2.20 (7f 216yd) 1, **Uncle Dick** (Mia Nicholls, 6-5 fav); 2, Buy The Dip (5-2); 3, Free Step (6-1). 4 ran. NR: Goose Rock. 3l, 6½l. Eve Johnson Houghton.

2.55 (6f 210yd) 1, **Miguel** (Tom Marquand, 1-2 fav); 2, Happy Place (9-2); 3, Compton Bay (18-1). 7 ran. 2¼l, 2l. Jack Channon.

3.30 (5f 215yd) 1, **Line Of Fire** (Oisin Murphy, 10-11 fav); 2, Birkie Boy (6-1); 3, Dadas Boy (6-1). 7 ran. 2l, nk. B R Millman.

4.05 (1m 3f 198yd) 1, **Dee's Dream** (Callum Shepherd, 11-2); 2, Control (15-8); 3, Seraphia (7-1). 8 ran. NR: No Diggity. 4l, sh hd. M Murphy & M Keady.

4.40 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, **Shalfa** (Saffie Osborne, 10-1); 2, Swing To The Stars (15-8 fav); 3, Kodiman (7-2). 6 ran. 3l, sh hd. Mrs L Richards.

5.15 (5f 60yd) 1, **Secret Handsheikh** (Darragh Keenan, 5-4 fav); 2, Street Parade (16-1); 3, Imperiousity (3-1). 6 ran. 3¼l, 2¼l. J Gallagher.

5.45 (6f 210yd) 1, **Turquoise Diamond** (Tom Marquand, 5-4 fav); 2, Moondial (7-2); 3, Major Gatsby (9-2). 6 ran. NR: Run Cmc. 2½l, ¾l. W J Haggas.

Placepot: £22.90. Quadpot: £14.30.

Newton Abbot

Going: good to soft (good in places)

2.40 (3m 1f 170yd ch) 1, **Ya Know Yaseff** (Mr Gearoid Harney, 13-8 fav); 2, Janeslittlevoice (5-2); 3, Sharp Note (3-1). 4 ran. ½l, 35l. D Pipe.

3.15 (2m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, **Way Out** (M G Nolan, 13-8 fav); 2, All The Glory (85-40); 3, The Galahad Kid (2-1). 5 ran. 10l, 7½l. Syd Hosie.

3.50 (2m 4f 216yd ch) 1, **Opening Bid** (Bryan Carver, 9-2); 2, Investment Manager (Evens fav); 3, Frankie Faulkner (5-2). 4 ran. NR: Shot Tower. 3¾l, ½l. C J Down.

4.25 (3m 2f 105yd hdle) 1, **Slate Lane** (R P McLernon, 1-2 fav); 2, Tommie Beau (8-1); 3, Hunting Percival (28-1). 8 ran. 2¼l, 21l. E Mullins.

5.00 (2m 167yd hdle) 1, **Saddlers Quest** (Joe Anderson, 9-4); 2, Karannelle (4-1); 3, Pepsiwithacap (11-1). 7 ran. Nk, 1½l. Mrs D A Hamer.

5.35 (2m 167yd Flat) 1, **Jukebox Annie** (Ciaran Gethings, 100-30); 2, Bradford Lady (1-3 fav); 3, Who's Sorry Now (17-2). NR: Basman Palace, Johnnie River. 3l, 13l. Claire Hitch.

Placepot: £197.70. Quadpot: £63.40.

Perth

Going: soft (good to soft in places)

2.30 (2m 47yd hdle) 1, **Kyogo** (R T Dunne, 5-1); 2, Doctor Nightingale (30-100 fav); 3, Ironopolis (15-2). NR: Expert Lady, Lord Sam's Castle. 1¼l, 3½l. G Elliott.

3.05 (2m 4f 20yd ch) 1, **A Different Kind** (B S Hughes, 2-7 fav); 2, Haribo Collonges (14-1); 3, Clondaw Hollow (7-2). 24l, 5½l. D McCain Jr.

3.40 (2m 4f 35yd hdle) 1, **Prince Nino** (Peter Kavanagh, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Beauty To Behold (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Ultra Violet (9-2). 10 ran. NR: Ivynator. ½l, 4¼l. Lizzie Quinlan.

4.15 (2m 47yd hdle) 1, **Malangen** (P Kavanagh, 9-2); 2, Inca Prince (100-30 jt-fav); 3, Rakhine State (17-2). 8 ran. 1½l, 1¼l. Miss L Harrison.

4.47 (2m 7f 180yd ch) 1, **Wasdell Dundalk** (Danny McMenamin, 16-5); 2, Saint Arvans (11-4); 3, Petrastar (13-2). 5 ran. 5½l, 5½l. Miss L Harrison.

5.22 (2m 7f 207yd hdle) 1, **Pammi** (Harry Reed, 100-30); 2, Headscarf Lil (11-4 jt-fav); 3, Confelicity (11-4 jt-fav). 6 ran. NR: Millie Of Mayo. Sh hd, ¾l. J S Goldie.

Placepot: £161.10. Quadpot: £10.40.

Newcastle

Going: standard

4.55 (1m 4f 98yd) 1, **Robusto** (Morgan Cole, 6-4 fav); 2, Mrs Meader (20-1); 3, Khilwafy (14-1). 8 ran. NR: Easter Island. 4l, 1l. Sir Mark Prescott.

5.30 (1m 2f 42yd) 1, **Spirit Of Ash** (Jason Hart, 11-2); 2, Balqaa (13-2); 3, Chinese Whisperer (14-1). 14 ran. ns, ½l. T Davidson.

6.00 (1m 5yd) 1, **Placeholder** (Callum Rodriguez, 13-2); 2, Speed Court (4-1); 3, Chiefman (11-4). 8 ran. ½l, 3¼l. G Boughey.

6.30 (6f) 1, **Havana Prince** (D Nolan, 9-1); 2, Forever Eighteen (5-1); 3, Polly The Rocket (8-1). 12 ran. Hd, 2¼l. T Coyle.

7.00 (1m 5yd) 1, **Child Of Lir** (P Mulrennan, 10-1); 2, Hidden Code (4-1); 3, Dream Final (1-2 fav). 6 ran. 1l, hd. R Menzies.

7.30 (6f) 1, **Blackcurrent** (Paula Muir, 15-2); 2, Mumcat (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Magic Gem (4-1). 13 ran. NR: Nickleby. Nk, nk. A D Brown.

8.00 (6f) 1, **Nazca** (T Jakes, 9-2 fav); 2, Congress (20-1); 3, Noble Captain (11-2). 12 ran. NR: Fighting Chance, Lancashire Life. ½l, ns. Miss L A Perratt.

8.30 (5f) 1, **Phoenix Star** (T Jakes, 20-1); 2, Latin Five (17-2); 3, Lady Celia (4-1 fav). 12 ran. NR: Aclaim To Fame. Nk, 1¾l. Jessica Macey.

Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £3,374.45 carried forward to Kelso today.

Placepot: £168.90. Quadpot: £24.20.

Djokovic will have 30 grand slams in sight


JOHN ANGELILLO/UPI/SHUTTERSTOCK
Djokovic lifts the US Open trophy — the 24th grand-slam title of his career so far

Stuart Fraser Tennis Correspondent

In the aftermath of Novak Djokovic's record-equalling 24th grand-slam singles title at the US Open, there was a theory being peddled that the Serbian veteran would consider bowing out at next year's Paris Olympics if he was to move clear of Margaret Court with a 25th major trophy before then.

"He's planning to play the Olympic Games in Los Angeles," Goran Ivanisevic, the coach of Djokovic, replied when it was put to him on Sunday evening. As hard as it was to tell whether he was being serious, it would not be a surprise if Djokovic was still competing on the tour at the age of 41 in 2028.

Djokovic's victory against Daniil Medvedev, an opponent nine years his junior, in Sunday's final at Flushing Meadows showed once again that he still has the physical and mental stamina required to compete and succeed on the biggest stages in tennis.

It does not seem outside the realms of possibility that Djokovic could go on to win a total of 30 grand slams — remember the days when Pete Sampras's men's record of 14 was considered unattainable? Djokovic appears eager to keep raising the bar to new heights.

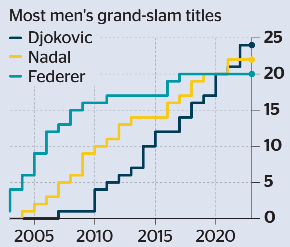
"Players come and go," Djokovic said. "Eventually one day I will leave tennis in about 23, or 24 years. There is going to be new young players coming up. Until then, I guess you'll see me a bit more."

BOUNCEBACKABILITY

One of the key traits behind Djokovic's US Open victory is his ability to quickly put any disappointment behind him. Throughout his career there have been moments which some thought might make him lose his way: the disqualification from the 2020 US Open for accidentally hitting a line judge with the ball and his deportation from Australia last year for refusing to be vaccinated against Covid-19 are two examples which spring to mind.

He arrived in the United States after a crushing five-set defeat by Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final, but any suggestions he might struggle to raise his spirits were quickly discarded by a run of 12 wins in 12 matches.

How he overhauled rivals



"We came to Cincinnati and Wimbledon was not even mentioned one time," Ivanisevic said. "That day Carlos was the better player and he won. Novak is the guy who just forgets the things and moves on."

MOTIVATION

When Djokovic completed a career grand slam by winning the 2016 French Open, he suddenly struggled with a lack of motivation because he had finally ticked off one of his biggest goals. It was another two years before he would claim another major trophy at Wimbledon in 2018.

If anything, it now works the other way. With every tournament he wins and record he breaks, Djokovic appears to be even more inspired to prolong his career. The fire inside still burns bright.

"Grand slams have always been the highest goal and the priority of mine in the whole season," Djokovic said.

"I try to prioritise my preparation so that I can peak in slams. I occasionally ask myself, why do I need this still at this stage after all I have done? How long do I want to keep going? But knowing that I play at such a high level still and I win the biggest tournaments, I don't want to leave this sport if I'm still at the top."

FITNESS

Men's Health magazine ran an article in July that pondered whether Djokovic may be the fittest athlete of all time in any sport. Considering his age, 36, many of the 24,000 spectators who watched him come through a gruelling 104-minute second set against Medvedev would probably be inclined to agree.

"I don't think I have ever played a longer set in my life, particularly not on this occasion against a top player like Daniil," Djokovic said. "He deserved to win that set more than I did. Somehow I managed to turn things around in the tie-break. In the third set I felt better than I did in the second."

LEVEL OF PLAY

Some might argue that Djokovic was at his peak at 24 in 2011, when he dominated the tour by winning ten tournaments, including three grand-slam titles. But he has undoubtedly evolved his game in different ways since then, most notably developing a solid net game in which he looks to come forward with serve-and-volley approaches. This has been honed through many hours on the practice court.

"He likes the challenges," Ivanisevic said. "If he wins [grand slam] number 25, he's going to think, why not 26? It's always something more. He's taking care of his body, he's taking care of everything. Every single detail has to be perfect and prepared. That's why he has unbelievable results."

ALCARAZ RIVALRY

With Roger Federer retired and Rafael Nadal set for a farewell tour next year, the emergence of Alcaraz, 20, has given Djokovic a new rivalry to get his teeth stuck into. The head-to-head record is finely poised at 2-2.

"It's great for our sport that I have very good rivalries with Alcaraz, no doubt," Djokovic said.

MORE RECORDS TO TARGET

Of the 28 grand-slam matches Djokovic has contested this year, he has lost only one, to Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final.

Winning all four major tournaments in the same year has still eluded him — he came closest in 2021, when he lost to Medvedev in the US Open final. This will surely be a source of motivation for him heading into next season as he bids to achieve the first men's singles calendar grand slam since Rod Laver in 1969.

Djokovic is clearly capable of reaching the 30 mark. The next opportunity to add to his total will come at the Australian Open, which he has won ten times. Also on his schedule is Paris 2024, which gives him another chance to claim a first Olympic gold medal. And if he falls short, there is always Los Angeles in 2028.

When can he reach 30 titles?

2025
At the rate he has been going in 2023 — three grand-slam titles in the year — he would get there by the end of 2025.

2026
At the rate of the past five years — two titles a year — it would take him until the end of 2026 to get there.

2027
At the rate he has been going since he won his first grand-slam title in 2008 — an average of 1.5 a year — it would take him another four years, until he is 40, to reach the mark.

Serb like a sat-nav who gets out of impossible situations

Matthew Syed



Towards the end of the second set, the US Open final was on a knife edge. The two men were exhausted, but Novak Djokovic looked the more so. The 36-year-old had stumbled twice during punishing exchanges and had fallen to the ground at the end of another, breathing heavily.

A close-up as the score drew level at six games all showed the Serb shaking, a sure sign of muscles replete with lactic acid, lungs struggling to gain oxygen. Daniil Medvedev, a brilliant player of underrated courage, was peering across the net to gauge the physical state of his opponent.

But Djokovic is peerless when it comes to the business end of any contest. Over the course of the season, in which the ageing maestro has won three of four grand-slam titles and is likely to finish as world No 1 for a record-extending eighth time, he has played 19 tie-breaks at the four majors. Of these, he has won a scarcely believable 17. When the going gets tough … well, you know the rest.

It is resolve, nerve, steeliness? I don't think these words do sufficient justice to Djokovic's capacity to produce the goods when it matters most. When I watch him, I am put in mind of a human sat-nav, able to find the destination no matter the weather, obstacles, lack of fuel, whatever. While others can so easily get lost in the fog of a breaker, Djokovic is clarity personified. On Sunday, he even took regular (and highly unexpected) detours to the net to get the job done.


Djokovic constantly altered his tactics

In this, he is reminiscent of another of sport's greatest champions. When Muhammad Ali defeated Sonny Liston to win the heavyweight title in 1964, there was a period in the fifth round when liniment from Liston's glove found its way into his eyes. He started screaming to Angelo Dundee, his trainer: "I can't see! I can't see!" Liston was considered the most fearsome heavyweight of the era, a man who could (as one scribe put it) "stun an elephant with either fist".

And yet Ali found a way. Dancing around the periphery of the ring, he extended his left arm horizontally as a barrier between himself and his opponent as he waited for his eyes to clear. The champion essayed to smite Ali again and again, but couldn't make contact. After the fight, Dundee said with characteristic eloquence: "Beethoven could compose without being able to hear. Why couldn't Ali fight without the ability to see?"

Isn't this the hallmark of the greatest sportspeople, champions with the wit and versatility to find avenues of possibility where mortals only see dead ends? Djokovic was winded towards the end of that second set, but shifted his tactics constantly, taking the ball earlier. Then he threw in drop shots and backhand slices to test his opponent. People who understand neither sport nor tennis call him "one-dimensional". Nothing could be further from the truth.

17
Djokovic won 17 of 19 tie-breaks in grand-slams this year. E Couacaud (Australian Open) and C Alcaraz (Wimbledon) were the only men to win one

From 30-30 at 5-6 in the second set, Djokovic won four crucial rallies (including at set point down) by strategically charging the net. In the tie-break itself, he won three more. Yes, the breaker will be remembered for the point at 4-4 where Djokovic was at the baseline, defending like a demon as Medvedev pummelled him around the court before the Russian took the point with the most delicate of drop shots. But the crucial difference was that Djokovic remained tactically supple, while Medvedev was rigid.

And so the Serb moves to 24 grand-slam singles titles, remarkable when you consider that he arrived in tennis with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal at their peaks and is in the twilight of his playing days with a new titan, Carlos Alcaraz, coming nicely to the boil. It has been a remarkable career full of remarkable matches, and who knows when it will finally end? What is certain is that the human sat nav intends to keep going, moving ever deeper into uncharted territory.

The World Cup needed this game

Wales won the contest but their stampeding opponents created a great spectacle, says **David Walsh**





HANS VAN DER VALK/ORANGE PICTURES/SHUTTERSTOCK

The Fiji wing Tuisova is held up by Tommy Reffell, Dan Biggar and George North as part of Wales's impressive 253-tackle effort during a bruising battle in Bordeaux

More than an hour after a fine match ended and almost half an hour after midnight, there were still a few thousand Wales supporters loitering around the food and drink stalls outside the Stade de Bordeaux. Most with red shirts on their backs, all with hearts now beating with pride. You may think to tell them they're investing too much in this but that would be to waste words. Diehards don't want to live any other way.

Walking towards the Metro, I fell in with a middle-aged couple. Both clad in red, they had loved what they'd seen, could not stop talking about it — how the game had see-sawed, how Fiji might have won had Semi Radradra held on to the last pass, but most of all how Wales had held on for an outstanding victory.

It was the eighth game of this World Cup and how much the tournament needed a game in which the suspense lasted until the clock turned red. Red for Wales, because they needed it to end precisely when it did. Fiji had them on the rack and were turning the wheel. All they wanted was more time, or more luck, or the otherwise excellent Radradra to scoop up that last pass as it came bouncing his way.

Afterwards the Fiji captain, Waisea Nayacalevu, was asked what it would have been like back home if Radradra had scored. "Everyone would have gone mad," he said. Instead, they are left to reflect sanely on what might have been.

Wales, though, deserved this win. My two new Welsh friends talked on the walk from the stadium about their pride in this performance. "The thing I loved was how the boys tackled," he said, as she nodded her approval. "The Fijians are big, they run hard and they're not easy to stop, but our lads kept making the tackles."

The man's eyes weren't deceiving him. Fiji had 61 per cent of possession and 65 per cent of territory, and they just wanted to run with the ball. Run, though, isn't the right verb. They stampeded towards the Wales tryline. Someone had to stop them.

Will Rowlands, the big second-rower, made 27 tackles, the prop Gareth Thomas 23 and the captain Jac Morgan 20. On the pitch for barely 21 minutes, replacement lock Dafydd Jenkins managed to make 13. No Fiji player made more than seven, but that was mostly because they were attacking.

> **27**
> Tackles made by Will Rowlands on Sunday, the same number as the starting Fijian locks and back row combined

Depending on how you look at it, the tackle count was murderous or heroic: Wales's 253 to Fiji's 70.

I preferred the fans' reverence for the bravery rather than Warren Gatland's clinical evaluation. He praised his players for a fine win but said it was "dumb" play that had almost cost the team. Sometimes the Monday review is best left until Monday. We had all seen the carnage at the end. A second or two after Radradra let that ball bounce from his grasp, the referee, Matthew Carley, blew his whistle for the last time and suddenly seven or eight Fiji players fell to the grass, so too some of Wales's. The greatness of the exhaustion was its own relief. At last, the slow release of tension from aching muscles.

Soon they were back on their feet, rivals now embracing in the way that fighters do after a heroic contest. Some exchanged shirts and it was funny to see a big Fiji forward trying to force his upper body into a Wales shirt. Each team went to their fans because the atmosphere throughout had been extraordinary. Some limped and others took short, truncated steps with legs that ached for ice.

Nick Tompkins, who had done so much to help get Wales over the line, wore a white Fiji shirt. Near the halfway line a Wales and a Fiji player, with arms around each other's shoulders, posed while one of the Wales support staff took a photo. Players know when they've given everything. On these nights there can be no recriminations, just appreciation that it takes two teams to make a great game.

Fiji contributed as much, if not more, to the spectacle than their rivals. Each side scored four tries but with the ball in their hands, Fiji's players ran 655 metres, nearly double the number achieved by their opponents. From the beginning of the match they flew into Wales, a tide without ebb.

Wales, though, never flinched. Across the pitch they stood in a line, each man responsible for what came his way and what came was big and hard-running. We use phrases like "winning the collisions" when what we mean is that a man has to be unafraid of getting hurt. Wales passed that test.

Fiji had their heroes too. After his team fell 8-0 behind, Nayacalevu thought it was down to him to do something and he blasted through a hole in the Wales defence. That try renewed the team's belief and then Radradra burnt the Wales defence to send the flanker Lekima Tagitagivalu scampering over beside the posts.

In those moments Fiji were irresistible and yet Wales did resist them. The tackle total tells its own story. Their defiance was embodied in the fierce and technically perfect hit Josh Adams made on Selestino Ravutaumada in the second half. That drew gasps of admiration from all around the ground.

And yet as much as one admired a terrific Wales effort, there was sympathy for Fiji. With the stadium now almost empty, the No 8 Viliame Mata and the replacement wing Josua Tuisova walked across the pitch, wet towels held around their heads. They stopped near the spot where Radradra had dropped that last pass before moving on towards a small cluster of people in the corner. Mata embraced his partner and hugged one of his children, reminding us that even on the cruellest of evenings there are reasons for carrying on.

● *David Walsh is Chief Sports Writer for The Sunday Times*

England's defiance inspired us, admits Biggar

Elgan Alderman Bordeaux

If Dan Biggar seemed overstimulated on Sunday night, he had three reasons to be: the occasion, a World Cup opener against Fiji; the birthday of his mother, Liz, who died two years ago; and England's win over Argentina 24 hours earlier, down to 14 men for 77 minutes.

Ahead 32-26, it almost went away from Wales in the final play, but Semi Radradra dropped the bouncing ball. Without the miss-pass Fiji may have waltzed in, such were their numbers.

"I think she was looking down on us in the last passage of play with that dropped ball, you don't see Semi dropping too many of those in open play," Biggar, 33, said of his mother. "Not so much during the match but I found the game quite difficult because she would have been here making a big weekend of it." This was yet another match in which Wales wobbled late. They did so in the embers of Wayne Pivac's tenure last year, losing to Australia from 34-13 up, and last month failed to see out a 17-9 lead over England, who were briefly down to 12 men.

"Results are the only thing that matters in this tournament," Biggar said. "We just dug in and, I've got to be honest, I thought England were absolutely magnificent [on Saturday] after going down to 14 men."

"We spoke about having a little bit of a similar mindset — whether we lose a player or go down a bit, still working your absolute socks off. I think it was quite good for us watching that [England] game to be honest as a team. We knew we were going to concede turnovers and have moments when we were up against it."



Sunday night showed Biggar, left, at his most divisive. Off the field he is politeness personified, but on it his competitive streak can lead to accusations of petulance. His urging of George North to "get the f***ing ball off the park" was clear to all watching on TV at the end of the first half, when Wales's backs were throwing it around on their own tryline.

"We've made a bit of a joke in the changing rooms," Biggar said. "I think I must have told everyone the same thing at some point this evening, including myself. We have to set standards and be accountable and I hope that brings good parts out of people as well as myself. Sometimes I need it to vent a little bit as well."

The vision of Wales passing and offloading with abandon, inside their own 22, was a shock. Welcomed by many observers, if not expected by the coaches. "Throwing the ball about in your 22, and a greasy ball, is not necessarily what we had actually planned for," Jonathan Humphreys, the forwards coach, said. "There were probably a few times in that first half that we could have perhaps taken a different option."

> **Wales v Portugal**
> Stade de Nice, Saturday, kick-off 4.45pm
> TV: ITV/S4C
> Radio: BBC 5 Live Sports Extra

Biggar's frustration was also visible when Gareth Davies missed him with a pass near the Fiji line, finding Jac Morgan when a crossfield kick was planned. The fly half flapped his arms and watched the flanker dink it towards Louis Rees-Zammit to score.

Despite Morgan's prowess, it was Biggar's banana-kick 50:22 that won the day, as the swerving strike turned a prolonged period of Fiji pressure into Wales's fourth try.

Wales have travelled to Nice for Saturday's match against Portugal with no serious injury concerns. Biggar had a recurrence of his back issue as he tired, and has almost two weeks until the clash with Australia in Lyon. Wales must decide whether to play Dewi Lake, the hooker and co-captain, after he missed the Fiji match with a knee injury.

Card chaos could ruin rugby's

Alex Lowe



Rugby Correspondent

Welcome to rugby in 2023, a sport trying to attain perfection on a field of chaos. It is an impossible task. Instead of clarity, it brings confusion. After an exciting opening weekend of the World Cup, in which England rediscovered how to win and Wales scraped past Fiji in a thrilling game on Sunday night, it is the refereeing and not the rugby that is dominating so many conversations.

The letters department at The Times has been inundated with readers questioning why Tom Curry, the England flanker, was sent off against Argentina for a head-on-head collision when three other similar incidents over the weekend warranted a yellow card at most.

Throw into the mix Matthew Carley's handling of the dramatic final stages of the Wales-Fiji game, when he appeared to be far more lenient to Warren Gatland's men than the Pacific Islanders, and referees have been getting it in the neck.

The World Cup is rugby union's great shop window but casual viewers — or at least those without a law degree and intimate knowledge of the dangerous tackle framework — are at risk of being locked out.

To recap the weekend, Curry received the fastest red card in World Cup history when he collided with Juan Cruz Mallía, the Argentina full back, just as he landed from a catching a ball in the air.

It looked to many like a rugby incident, like an accidental collision which resulted in both men receiving treatment for cuts. But all decisions are then based on outcome only, with no consideration given to a player's intent. Curry was deemed guilty of dangerous foul play and dismissed.

It would be a surprise if Curry, via Richard Smith KC, who has been England's brief for 20 years, did not challenge the red card at his disciplinary hearing in Paris tonight. He will likely argue that mitigation should have been applied given the sudden change in height of the ball carrier. It would have worked for Owen Farrell, the England captain, after he was sent off in a warm-up game against Wales, had he been attempting to make a legal tackle in the first place. Curry was.



Carley refereed the Wales-Fiji thriller

Meanwhile, Jesse Kriel, the South Africa centre, received no on-field punishment for what looked to be a head-on-head collision with the Scotland loose forward Jack Dempsey. Kriel is not expected to be cited either. It is understood that the multiple replay angles, which were not used in the original broadcast, could not confirm there was head-on-head contact.

Martín Sigren, the Chile captain, was shown a yellow card for a similar incident to Curry's in his team's defeat by Japan. To add to the confusion, Nic Berry, the referee, told Sigren it was foul play because he had been upright, which was incorrect. Tackling a player upright is not illegal, which is part of the problem here. We will come to that.

Sigren did not have his yellow card upgraded to red because the foul-play officials who operate in World Rugby's so-called bunker and reviewed the incident decided the first contact had been with the body.

An incident involving Dan Biggar, the Wales fly half, in the game against Fiji will be looked at by the citing commissioner, who has 36 hours to decide whether a red card should have been shown. There were a couple of other potential shoulder-to-the-head challenges in that game too, including by Will Rowlands on Fiji's Luke Tagi.

Got all that? Welcome again to rugby in 2023, a sport facing legal action from former players with dementia tying itself in knots in a bid to demonstrate it is taking action to reduce head injuries.

It does not appear to be working. World Rugby's own research shows that upright, front-on tackles with force are the most dangerous in the game. For years, they have used red cards as a way of trying to force players to go lower and maintain it is the best form of deterrent.

But upright front-on tackles with force are also extremely effective and not illegal unless there is a minor misjudgment in the heat of a Test match which results in head contact.

Players will keep taking the risk. Farrell addressed exactly that issue last summer, after Saracens had defeated Harlequins in the Gallagher Premiership semi-final, a game that featured four yellow cards for dangerous tackles.

"A few of them tackles are them just trying to be dominant. There is no malice in it," he said. "We know what we can and can't do, but you still have to have enough intent to go forward in your defence.

"If you are constantly being passive you probably won't get picked next week. It's a fine line and I don't think people quite understand when it gets slowed down on TV how quick those decisions are [on the field]."

We have written this before but players find themselves caught between what the game demands of them on the field in order to win matches and what the lawmakers demand of them in order to make the sport appear safer.

Those are the small margins referees and their back-up team of six are having to police.

"Rugby is not black and white, there are a lot of things that are grey," Nika Amashukeli, the Georgian World Cup referee, said.

"The game is now decided on centimetres. The game is filmed by 42 cameras with slow-mo replay. That's part of life, unless you want robots on the field."

The end game here appears inevitable if the focus remains on reducing head contact. The sternum-height tackle law that has been introduced into community and schools rugby as a trial this year is expected to be fast-tracked into the professional game before the next World Cup. That would create greater space between the legal tackle height and the head.

As for Carley's performance, Wales were penalised on multiple occasions for offences on their own line without a yellow card. Fiji did not receive the same leniency. It felt to many like a mistake.

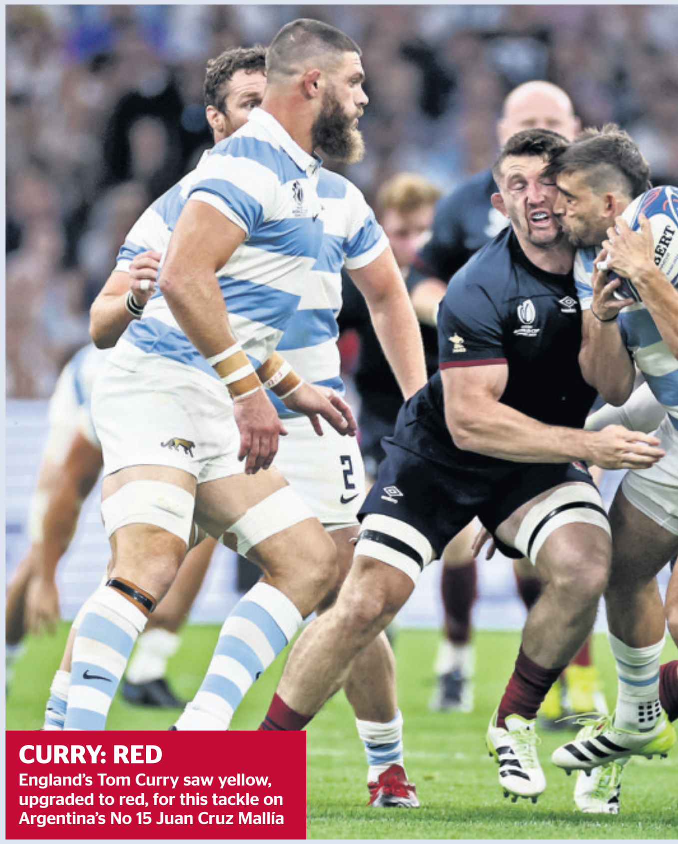
Given the job of a rugby referee is to manage 80 minutes of organised chaos, where little is black and white, it would be interesting and beneficial to understand how he judged those situations.

As Amashukeli says, referees will make mistakes. That will not change even with a back-up team of five, which they now have at Test level. But to suggest Carley was guilty of bias, as some have, is outrageous.

Dylan Hartley, the former England captain, made the fascinating point that the natural deference Fijians have to authority — their "respect and humility" — meant Carley was not "pressed, reminded, questioned, leant on and ultimately held accountable".

The introduction of a professional team on Fiji has benefited their game hugely. Perhaps referee management is the next step. And, of course, if Semi Radradra had not dropped the ball with the tryline at his mercy, Fiji might have won anyway.

Why weren't these all red cards?



CURRY: RED
England's Tom Curry saw yellow, upgraded to red, for this tackle on Argentina's No 15 Juan Cruz Mallía



SIGREN: YELLOW
Martín Sigren, of Chile, was shown a yellow for his collision with Kotaro Matsushima. It was not upgraded



KRIEL: NO ACTION
South Africa's Jesse Kriel escaped any on-field punishment for this hit on Scotland's Jack Dempsey

Scottish TMO appeals dismissed as Springboks get green light

Mark Palmer
Scottish Rugby Correspondent

Gregor Townsend has revealed how his Scotland players' on-field appeals for a review of the head-on-head contact between Jesse Kriel and Jack Dempsey fell on deaf ears.

The collision between the South Africa centre and the Scotland No 8 occurred a mere 57 seconds into Sunday's Rugby World Cup clash in Marseille, but despite the apparent similarities with the incident which led to England's Tom Curry being sent off against Argentina at the same venue not 24 hours previously, neither the referee Angus Gardner nor the Television Match Official Ben Whitehouse deemed it worthy of a second look.

Townsend, the Scotland head coach, explained that his captain, Jamie Ritchie, had made direct representation to Gardner after the collision was replayed on the big screen at the Stade Velodrome, but the Australian official was apparently unmoved.

"We did pass a message on to Jamie Ritchie to ask the referee if he had heard from the TMO and then it was shown on the [big] screen," Townsend said. "The referees obviously have to be helped by TMOs, but if they've seen an incident on the screen, referees can also say, 'OK we need to look at that again'.

"It's frustrating that it didn't get discussed. Sometimes you don't have the opportunity because there are lots of phases, but in this case there was an opportunity because there was a scrum.

"That usually takes a minute or two to form. It was even more frustrating when Finn [Russell] was penalised for an incident that seemed very harsh [a no-arms tackle on Kurt-Lee Arendse].

"Even his [Russell's] deliberate knock-on, it looked like he may have knocked the ball backwards."

Townsend did, however, emphasise that the biggest factor in Scotland's 18-3 defeat by the world champions was their own lack of precision.

"The reason we lost was that we weren't accurate enough. We didn't play well enough in the third quarter when we had got ourselves in a position where we normally kick on.

"We should have kicked on but we didn't. That's more frustrating than the incidents we are chatting about."

Meanwhile, World Rugby will not seek an explanation from South Africa for their use of "traffic light" signals during the match as it does not contravene the laws of the game.

The Scots have similarly declared themselves comfortable with the bizarre scenes at the Stade Velodrome in which Felix Jones, the Springbok assistant coach, and Rassie Erasmus, the director of rugby who led South Africa to global triumph four years ago, held up different-coloured lights in the coaching box to convey messages to players and pitchside support staff.

It was initially thought the signals conveyed whether Manie Libbok, the Springbok fly half, should kick for goal or the corner with penalties, but Jacques Nienaber, the head coach, has subsequently claimed the different colours referred to the varying degrees of severity of injuries.

Nienaber also said that the unusual choice of communication method had arisen from the difficulties South Africa experienced when speaking over radios on a previous visit to Marseille to play France last November.

"I don't know if you've been pitchside but in this dome the sound is phenomenal. You can't hear anything," he explained.

"I think a lot of teams will have systems — is it red, is it green — for the extent of the injury or the knock and how serious it is. It's just for us to communicate with support staff."

Brad Mooar, the Scotland attack coach, confirmed that Scotland would not be raising any complaints.

A World Rugby spokesman said that, as no potential law infraction had been identified, the global governing body would not be investigating.

big moment

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND





ROWLANDS: NO ACTION
There was no on-field action taken against Will Rowlands, of Wales, after this tackle on Fiji's Luke Tagi

How Sinfield's fury after Fiji defeat sowed seeds for England's defensive revival

Some home truths after warm-up humbling led to dramatic turnaround against Argentina, writes **Will Kelleher**

The moment when England had to look each other square in the eye and address their attitude and application in defence came in the days after their galling defeat by Fiji at Twickenham.

Not only had they lost — 30-22 — but they had missed 27 tackles in a home Test. They were ragged, lacking in energy and meek. Something needed to change, and fast.

The defence coach, Kevin Sinfield, under pressure as England had conceded 23 tries in their previous six Tests, sat the players down as a group and spelled that out frankly.

"We got a bit of a rocket after that game," Freddie Steward, the full back, said. "There were no complaints about that, it needed to happen. We had a very thorough review, which we needed, and we reaped the benefits [in the win against Argentina]. That was necessary for that to happen."

Sinfield was concerned that his players were not transferring the abilities they were showing in training to the games. "The big message was we have to be better," he said of that team meeting after the Fiji defeat. "The boys have been excellent. I've really enjoyed working with them, but we'd not seen the transfer."

He knew it would take time for the England team, coming from a smattering of Gallagher Premiership clubs, to foster the sort of personal bonds he built at Leicester Tigers. There his main message was that players had to fight for each other; the Leicester players found a purpose in the season they won the league title in 2022, after their captain Tom Youngs's wife died, and were inspired by Sinfield's backstory and charity work for his former Leeds Rhinos team-mate Rob Burrow, who has motor neurone disease.

With England, though, that sense of brotherhood — so vital to underpinning a strong defence — was absent, with the World Cup looming.

"That's what you get when you pull players from 11 or 12 different clubs," Sinfield said. "It takes some time to get them on the same page. It takes them to understand each other and how their games fit together. We've worked particularly hard on that. You've got to defend for the guy next to you and understand and have some trust that he's going to be there for you. The best teams have that."

Those who worked with him at Tigers, like Steward, felt bad that their work on the field was exposing Sinfield to criticism.

Defensive work in progress

Points conceded per entry into own 22 this year — Tier-one nations only

Team	Points
England	3
Argentina	2.7
Wales	2.7
Australia	2.3
France	2.2
New Zealand	2.2
Fiji	1.9
South Africa	1.9
Scotland	1.6
Ireland	1.3

Tries conceded per 80 minutes among tier-one nations this year

Team	Tries
Australia	4
Wales	3.5
England	3.1
Fiji	2.8
France	2.8
Argentina	2.7
New Zealand	2.5
Scotland	2.1
South Africa	1.8
Ireland	1.2

Source: Opta

"That's what makes Kev such a good defence coach, he's so inspiring," Steward said. "He's the sort of bloke you don't want to let down. That's testament to him. When you go out there, part of it is you do it for him. You don't want to see a guy like that, who puts his heart and soul into us in his work with his defence, feel let down.

"Kev is big on covering each other's backs. That's his big thing. He wants a defensive unit that are going to work incredibly hard for each other and, when it goes wrong, cover up for each other."

Then, in Marseille as England beat Argentina on Saturday, they belatedly found the spirit they had been searching for. They still missed 23 tackles, and made only 79 per cent of those they attempted, but there was something about the way that England hunted their opponents, banged and clanged, that showed a distinct change in intent.

Ben Earl shot out of the line to go after the fly half Santiago Carreras in the first minute, Courtney Lawes and Maro Itoje were full of disruptive energy, and in the second half Manu Tuilagi produced a wonderful walloping hit on his opposite number, Santiago Chocobares, which lifted everyone.

"That was a big hit, wasn't it? Massive hit," Steward said. "It's nice at 15 when you are behind the line and you just see the collision, it's brilliant."

Sinfield smiled widely watching that tackle. "It was great, great to see him back to some of that," he said. "I don't think he was on his own either. There were some pretty good shots out there."

England's defence is not fixed. They still concede three points on average each time the opposition enters their 22 — the worst record of the top ten nations — and have been shown more cards in 2023 than any other team. Tom Curry's early departure against Argentina was their fourth in six games, and ninth card — red or yellow — in ten Tests (although Steward's against Ireland was later rescinded).

That made England's defensive work more remarkable, as they played almost 78 minutes with 14 men, 68 of those with one fewer man than the Pumas. It also meant Tuilagi packed down at flanker. "The back row is the heartbeat of the defence and to lose Tom, after the work he has put in, was tough for us," Sinfield said. "We knew he was going to have a big game from the way he trained and the influence he had on the group. We are all disappointed for him.

"It is clearly more difficult to do that with 14 men on the field. I thought we handled it really well, but I don't want us to keep handling that. None of us do. We are a better team with 15 on the field."

Sinfield is the coach who runs the England players' "tackle school", an option given to those who have been cited for poor tackle technique so they can knock a week off their suspension. He took Billy Vunipola through the course — where the tackle in question is repeated several times, filmed and sent to a World Rugby panel for review.

Vunipola, who was sent off in the World Cup warm-up Test against Ireland, is now free to play, and could come into the back row to replace Curry for the Japan game, if the flanker is himself banned at his hearing today.

"We have worked hard on his technical skill again and will continue to do that," Sinfield said of Vunipola. "People expect it just to be fixed because they have gone through tackle school, but just because you do a speed awareness course doesn't mean you are never going to speed again, so we continue to do that. These guys are humans and will make mistakes and we will continue to mitigate that."

The defence coach is delighted to have England's only specialist No 8 back, though. "He is one of those players that lifts people and once he is on the field he gets sevens out of ten and eights out of ten out of those people around him," Sinfield said.

Sinfield knows his defence faces a starkly different challenge against Japan this week. They move the ball far more than Argentina, looking to play at speed and to stretch England from one wing to the other with their "ruck-and-run" style.

At least, though, he is now building his wall from bricks, not straw — although he was disappointed England failed to prevent Argentina from scoring a try in Marseille. "To do that against a world-class team like Argentina would have sent a message out," he said. "It shows we've still got plenty left to do. We saw a fight, a spirit and attitude that the people at home supporting us and in the ground would have loved to have seen. For us as coaches that is particularly pleasing, but we know we need to be better."

England v Japan
Stade de Nice, Sunday, kick-off 8pm
TV: ITV
Radio: BBC Radio 5 Live



Sinfield inspired England's players

Police investigate alleged gang rape of Ireland fan

David Chazan Paris

An Irishwoman was allegedly abducted and gang-raped by three men in Bordeaux, where she had watched the Rugby World Cup match between Ireland and Romania.

The woman, who has not been named, told French police she was attacked after 11pm on Sunday in the city centre. She had watched the match on Saturday and spent Sunday evening in bars on Place du Palais. She was returning on foot to a nearby flat, which she had rented on Airbnb, when the three men allegedly assaulted her.

Irish police officers, sent to Bordeaux to help to maintain order during the World Cup in France, helped her to file a complaint with their French counterparts early yesterday. She was taken to hospital for medical examinations. The Bordeaux prosecutor's office has opened an investigation.

The police took DNA samples from the woman's clothing and are studying CCTV footage to try to identify the three men. No arrests have been made.

A group of Wales supporters found the woman in the street after the alleged rape, according to prosecutors. She then returned to her flat, where neighbours called the police. She received counselling yesterday from members of a rape and sexual assault survivors support group.

Why it went wrong for Pogba

Martin Hardy



Paul Pogba stood with his hands around a large table in the France dressing room before the World Cup final against Croatia in 2018. "We all know where we are, we all know what we want and we all know how far we have come," he said.

The speech went on. There was silence from every team-mate and member of staff. He spoke about making a memory the grandchildren of those France supporters watching would be told about. "I want us to go on to the pitch as warriors, as leaders," he concluded, before banging his hands on the table. It was perhaps Pogba's most inspirational moment. France won 4-2 and Pogba scored the crucial third goal.

Five years on, Pogba, 30, looks finished. Yesterday evening he was provisionally suspended with immediate effect by Nado, Italy's national anti-doping tribunal, after a test performed after Juventus's 3-0 victory away to Udinese on August 20 detected elevated levels of testosterone, a hormone that increases athletes' endurance.

Pending a trial and testing of a backup B sample, there is now the possibility of a four-year suspension if it is proven he took the substance intentionally. That would take him to the age of 34. There would be very little left then, the memory of a player who was already a controversial enigma sullied beyond even the glory of lifting the World Cup at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.

Pogba had been a Manchester United player for two years when he delivered such a powerful speech to his France team-mates. He had been the most expensive player in the history of the game when he moved back to Old Trafford — where his senior career had begun — for £89 million from Juventus in August 2016. There would be questions about his defensive abilities in those two seasons, protection from his club manager, José Mourinho, and, as a prelude to the World Cup, silverware.



Pogba returned to Juventus last year

United won the League Cup and the Europa League in the first season of his second spell at the club and secured a runners-up place in the Premier League in the next campaign. He played 57 Premier League games and scored 11 goals over those two campaigns. The aftermath of the World Cup would prove his most successful in terms of goalscoring — 13 in the league, 16 in all competitions — but the malaise that appears to have bottomed out with a failed drugs test began then.

The rows with Mourinho, who had previously protected him from the "Einsteins" of the game who queried his heart and desire, were regular. "It all started when I got injured," Pogba would later admit in his own documentary, *The Pogmentary*. "I decided to go to Miami for rehab and left. In Miami a *paparazzo* photographed me with my wife, Zulay. Mourinho sent the photo to Mino Raiola [his agent]. I didn't like it at all. I said to Mou, 'Are you serious? I am injured, but I come here to train three times a day.'"

Pogba was stripped of his deputy captaincy role in September 2018 after a training-ground row with Mourinho, when the Portuguese believed he had posted a picture of himself laughing on Instagram with Andreas Pereira after a Carabao Cup penalty defeat by Derby County, a game he was rested for.

"Who me?" Pogba could be seen querying in astonishment at the admonishment in a video of the incident with Mourinho (he would claim Old Trafford's wi-fi meant the Instagram post was not delivered until after the game). The club backed Mourinho.

Mourinho would later call Pogba a "virus". There would be injury, a loss of form, the occasional goal and a cycle that he appeared unable to break. That summer of 2019, Pogba publicly declared he wanted to leave. He thought he was going to Real Madrid in an exchange for James Rodríguez. It never happened. He was there a further three seasons, scoring only five league goals in that period.



DAVID RAMOS/FIFA/GETTY IMAGES

Pogba was part of the France team that won the World Cup in Russia in 2018

He had continually praised Didier Deschamps, the head coach of France. "He gave me a role that I know," he said, but it felt befitting of a fallen star that he left United for nothing last summer, going back to Juventus. He signed on July 11 and injured the meniscus in his knee 15 days later, which eventually required surgery. It would be February before he made a first appearance of the season, as a substitute. France had lost the World Cup final in December, without Pogba, by then.

A police investigation was opened last year into claims he was the target of an extortion plot by his brother Mathias and childhood friends for €13 million. Mathias has denied the allegations.

In March he was dropped by Massimiliano Allegri, the Juventus manager, after being late for a team dinner. His first start on his return to Italian football came in May, against Cremonese. He did not finish the game, because of injury, a lesion in his left thigh. There was only one start in Serie A last season, and this term his two league appearances have come from the bench. They could be the last of a footballer who once inspired his country to the game's greatest prize.

Midfielder had hinted at retirement

CONTINUED FROM BACK

wife four times. "It was the lady's birthday; she deserved a treat," he told the disciplinary panel, to no avail.

Testosterone is a powerful steroid that can increase lean body mass, improve muscle strength, power and speed and also bone density. It can even lift the mood of an athlete, leading to a greater sense of motivation and self-confidence. From a training perspective, it will enable an athlete to train harder and recover faster. It is also difficult to detect. A specific form of testing is required to make the determination between synthetic testosterone and naturally occurring testosterone.

The detection window is also relatively small; as little as four or five days. But one anti-doping expert told The Times someone deliberately doping would be "clumsy" to be caught in an in-competition test.

At the same time, the expert also said providing a non-doping explanation for the presence of synthetic testosterone is extremely difficult.

Pogba said recently he considered retiring due to the effects of an alleged €13 million blackmail plot against him, which he claims involved his older brother, Mathias. Pogba filed a complaint with Turin prosecutors last year. Mathias denies the allegations made against him. "Sometimes I was just by myself thinking, 'I don't want to have money any more. I just don't want to play any more,'" Pogba told Al Jazeera, in an interview published this week.

Völler: Top job not for me

Germany's national team director Rudi Völler said he will not be a candidate to succeed sacked coach Hansi Flick despite taking over for today's friendly against France.

Völler, Germany's former World Cup-winning player who also coached the national team from 2000-2004, said he had stepped in for one match to help until a new coach is found.

"Tomorrow is a one-game thing for me," he said. "I felt obliged to help."

Flick's disappointing two-year stint ended after Saturday's 4-1 defeat by Japan. Germany will host Euro 2024 in nine months.



Henry Winter

Football writer of the year



A youth club that has produced 92 players – and Sting





Carrick, left, and Shearer, above, are just two of the 92 professional players produced by Wallsend Boys Club

England and Scotland fighting over Newcastle United's dynamic central midfielder Elliot Anderson underlines even more the importance of talent factories such as his alma mater, Wallsend Boys Club.

As headlines focus on where Anderson is going to, it is worth remembering and saluting where he is coming from. It was at about 1.20pm on Thursday when the guests who were attending the opening of the Peter Olsen Community Hub (POCH), Wallsend's magnificent new facilities at Kirkley Park, were surprised and delighted to see Anderson walk through the crowded room and find a seat.

Elite football must never forget that it is those in rooms and facilities such as these, selfless coaches and volunteers and community-minded philanthropists, who help to keep the game alive. Such clubs are the bedrock of football.

Anderson had come straight from rehab work at Newcastle's training ground, having suffered a minor injury that forced his withdrawal from the Scotland squad. The 20-year-old's presence caused a stir, not simply in Wallsend, but in Glasgow and St George's Park, because there is much talk about whether Anderson is actually committing himself to Scotland. Speculation ensued over the nature of his injury.

The simple fact was that Anderson was indeed injured, and turned up for the ceremony to show his support for a legendary institution that helped him to reach for the stars. "Good people don't forget their roots," Wallsend's chairman, Steve Dale, told me. Anderson was standing nearby, quietly offering his assistance to the club however they needed him, mainly photographs to publicise POCH.

It's very easy in this fluid, monied world, especially for footballers, to forget their roots. Anderson hasn't.

"It's fantastic to see him," Wallsend's general manager, John Percival, said. "Yesterday he got back from Scotland, sent us a message to say he would be here. It's great to see ex-players coming back and showing support."

Alan Shearer and Michael Carrick are heavily involved with Wallsend, which has produced 92 players who have gone on to play professionally. England are indebted to the club: Peter Beardsley, Fraser Forster and Alan Thompson also went on to represent England. That's 163 senior collective caps.

Steve Bruce, Steve Watson and Steven Taylor became England B internationals. Lee Clark, Michael Bridges, Neil McDonald and Graham Fenton played at under-21 level. Eric Steele helps England's young goalkeepers. The nation owes Wallsend, and so many other similar local launchpads.

Clubs benefit from Wallsend's nurturing skills. Robbie Elliott enjoyed a decent career, taking in two spells at Newcastle United. Brian Laws won a couple of League Cups with Nottingham Forest. Shola Shoretire is at Manchester United. The list goes on.

Clubs such as Wallsend are vital. Professional academies, especially in the era of the Premier League's Elite Player Performance Plan, scoop up talents from a young age, but prospects can slip through their dragnet, some take time to mature physically and mentally, others just want to play with their friends and maybe dedicate themselves later. As well as offering an array of sports, Wallsend teach life skills, behaviour, respect, discipline and teamwork, in keeping with the ethos of the directors of the Swan Hunter shipyard who founded the club in 1904.

Such clubs are so much more than football production lines anyway. Mike McLeod went on to win silver in the 10,000m at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The skier Amy Stokoe played for Wallsend girls' teams. "And Sting's not done badly," Dale said, smiling, "he's the only one from Wallsend Boys Club to play Wembley with a bass guitar [rather] than with football boots!" Sting has sent occasional gig-worn guitars for auction.

Clubs such as this are release valves for communities under pressure, especially in or close to areas of deprivation. Some of the streets near Kirkley Park and Wallsend's old base on Station Road have undergone little sign of the government's much vaunted levelling-up.

During lockdown, the club left fruit and healthy drinks in Wallsend Park for struggling families. Isolation inevitably bequeathed issues. "This place is vital post-Covid," Dale added of POCH. "We have a lot of kids who got detached from others during Covid, got mental issues, and with some it's physical health with long Covid. That detachment from friends and being in teams, all those wonderful things you give them when they are out there in a team match, you need to rebuild that."

Olsen helped Wallsend rebuild from a devastating storm in 2012, chipping in with £400,000 of the £1.7 million for the expanded facilities. Olsen's not from the North East, he's from North London, but he's not forgotten the straitened circumstances of his early years, as endured by so many others. He would have loved sports facilities such as those provided by Wallsend. He would have appreciated the empathy and enthusiasm of the coaches and staff. He would have marvelled at hot water.

Olsen was born during the Second World War in a small flat in Kentish Town; there was no hot water and the lavatory was shared between three families. His father, a bully wanted by police, disappeared when Olsen was 15 and his mum died when he was 20.

He went to the 1955 FA Cup final between Newcastle and Manchester City and was sitting next to a friendly Newcastle couple, and the wife gave him a Mars bar every time her team scored. "I got three Mars bars!" he recalled of Newcastle's 3-1 win. "I had a soft spot for Newcastle after that."

Olsen tried to build a career in the UK but readily admits he was "known as FILTH — failed in London, try Hong Kong!" He made his fortune in Hong Kong, partly through producing Take That dolls, before developing a cocaine problem at 52. "I was now known as LOMBARD — loads of money but a right dick."

Olsen got cleaned up and focused on improving others' lives with charitable donations from his considerable wealth. He kept returning to the UK. "I'm an Arsenal fan and I went to the 1998 FA Cup final, playing Newcastle," he said. "At the end, there were 20,000 Newcastle fans still there, watching Arsenal get the cup. And they sat there as good as gold. I love the people here."

He met Dale in Hong Kong, learnt about the Boys Club and immediately wrote a cheque for £2,000. Seeing the impact that Wallsend had, Olsen kept donating, and now the POCH has risen. "It's going to help kids avoid isolation, provide them with community and an opportunity to make friends," Olsen said, "and friends are so important in your life. The more we isolate ourselves today, wrapped up in our phones and Facebooks, we just sit there and don't make contact."

Also in attendance were Michael Carrick's brother and sister-in-law, Graeme and Kay, as trustees of the Michael Carrick Foundation, which sponsors football camps run by Wallsend. "It's especially rewarding when one of our own gets involved," Dale said. "Michael, Graeme and the Carrick family are exemplary, the fact they want to do something." Michael's father, Vince, still plays five-a-side there.

Graeme works for Newcastle's academy. For too long, too much Newcastle talent has left town early, heading to Southampton, as Shearer did, or West Ham United, like both the Carricks. "We have a good relationship with Newcastle," Percival said. "Their recruitment teams come and watch our players at the weekend."

They seek more players of Anderson's ability and aptitude. It will not be long before Wallsend have their 100th professional. "We will be having a few celebrations," Dale said, "hopefully in the next three seasons if they keep coming through like Elliot." One of their own, now in demand by two countries.

Hacker who leaked City documents convicted but spared jail

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

The Portuguese computer hacker whose release of a huge cache of documents led directly to Manchester City being charged with 115 rule breaches by the Premier League has received a suspended prison sentence by a court in Lisbon.

In what became known as the Football Leaks cache, Rui Pinto, 34, released hundreds of thousands of documents and emails to media organisations across Europe in 2018.

A panel of three judges found Pinto guilty of nine offences and imposed a suspended sentence of four years.

The Premier League announced charges for the alleged rule breaches by City in February, including for misreporting the pay of players and former manager Roberto Mancini, as well as sponsorship income. City have always denied any wrongdoing and say they have "irrefutable evidence" that will clear them.



Pinto's targets included City

Other revelations included that Chelsea paid the families of youth players, which is believed to form part of another Premier League investigation. The leaks also led to the publication of apparent ethnic profiling of players by an employee of Paris Saint-Germain, information about the transfer fees and salaries of stars such as Lionel Messi and Neymar, and an accusation of rape against Cristiano Ronaldo, which he has always denied.

During his trial Pinto admitted that he was behind the information but argued that he was a whistleblower, not a criminal, and had acted in the public interest for no personal gain. His lawyers told the court that he has helped authorities in Europe and beyond to tackle crime in the sport, while Pinto said he was "shocked and disgusted" by what he found in his hacking activities.

There is a second case against Pinto, which is yet to go to court, in which Portuguese prosecutors are accusing him of 377 other hacking-related crimes, but that case could take several years to be resolved under the slow-moving legal system. The nine offences include some of the most serious accusations, including one count of attempted extortion.

"The freedom to inform does not justify violations of privacy," the presiding judge, Margarida Alves, told the court where Pinto, who had been released from house arrest while awaiting trial, appeared. "It has clearly been established he was hoping to get money."

Southgate's leaders ready to thrive at hostile Hampden

Henry Winter

Chief Football Writer



Scotland v England

Kick off: Tonight, 7.45pm
TV: Channel 4 **Radio:** talkSPORT
Referee: D Massa (Italy)
Scotland (possible 3-4-2-1)

A Gunn
R Porteous, J Hendry, K Tierney
A Hickey, B Gilmour, C McGregor, A Robertson
S McTominay, J McGinn
C Adams

M Rashford, H Kane, P Foden
J Bellingham, D Rice, K Phillips
K Trippier, M Guéhi, H Maguire, K Walker
A Ramsdale

England (possible 4-3-3)

It comes down to trust in his players, Gareth Southgate insisted last night. It comes down to his belief that this exceptional collection of England players have the self-belief, game craft and decision-making qualities to respond to situations in games, without constant guidance from him. Self-starters among the fire-starters will be needed tonight, when instructions from the bench will be hampered by the Hampden Park wall of noise.

The dugouts do extend far from the fans in a stadium that looks ready to moonlight as an athletics track, so some communication with the wide men is possible but Southgate trusts his players to take charge. There are leaders out there, some club captains like the right-footed Kieran Trippier, who willingly accepts the responsibility of playing left back, and others who lead by deed as much as word, like Harry Kane.

Others were just natural leaders from the moment they first stepped into the fray, like Marc Guéhi, Declan Rice and Jude Bellingham. Some have been through the crucible of agony and abuse, forging their character into responsibility-takers, like Bukayo Saka and Marcus Rashford. Phil Foden is expected to replace Saka on the right this evening, and Southgate knows that the Manchester City player has the big-game attitude, although he will need to work hard out of possession if Andrew Robertson begins flying down the wing.

Even with Southgate making changes, he has no hesitation in continuing to bestow that trust. "Without a doubt," he said at Hampden. England know it will be hostile. Nobody is calling this a friendly. As Southgate spoke, this famous old arena was bathed in the deceptive gentle setting sun, and it was all calm before the storm, but noted photos on the wall near where the England manager stood included the image of the Tartan Army breaking the crossbar at Wembley in 1977. He remembers that, having been six at the time and already fascinated by football. Some of the pitch dug up by Scotland fans became lawns in Corby, Northamptonshire, let alone up in Scotland. So Southgate knows of the passion play in store. Even the menu on the food stall yards away, starting with a kebab pie, was another reminder that usual rules don't apply here.

"They're great occasions to be part of," Southgate said of the world's oldest football fixture. He remembers well the noise of Hampden in the Euro 2000 play-off, and the emotion. "I remember Scholesy's [Paul Scholes's] goals," Southgate recalled. "I remember after the first one Arthur Cox [Kevin Keegan's assistant] telling us all to sit down on the bench and calm down. Then he leapt up and ran about 30 yards after the second! They were like every England v Scotland game — really intense encounters. They've always had good players. They've now got a very good team."

So that trust between manager and players matters hugely. "You prepare the players tactically for as much as you can," Southgate said.

"But football is a game of decision-making. Every battle, every run, every ball is slightly different." Players have prepared individually since their early years, so that muscle memory kicks in. "They have seen thousands of them before, but ultimately the cross comes over, the winger is on the far post, he has assessed the flight, he is assessing the marking, he is assessing the position of the goalkeeper."

They have analysed clips. They have absorbed all the instructions from the coaching staff. "Coaching can add whatever and the top coaches can add to the very top players but ultimately players are the ones who go and win football matches," Southgate added. "The game is about players. The players have to make all the important decisions. They have to react to things on the field — but there are always opportunities to get messages on to the field from those that are close to you. I know some managers are keener to do that earlier and more rapidly and more vividly. We all have different ways of working."

That is why, Southgate said, he did not panic when Oleksandr Zinchenko gave Ukraine the lead in Wroclaw on Saturday. "There is an element of you have got to trust the players sometimes," he added.

"We prepare the team well. When we went a goal down the other day, I did not feel the need to come out on the touchline and make a load of fuss. I'm looking at how the players talk and react because we talk about these situations and we work around those things and we recognise everything is calm, we have talked things through and the response was good. You make points when you need to but I don't feel the need to be seen to be doing stuff."

It's a balance, of course. The best managers shape games with their substitutions, both in personnel and timing, and their tactical tweaks. Southgate talks of the elite decision-making of his players, and it is his responsibility not simply to set them up most effectively, 4-3-3 that suits their individual and collective strengths best, but himself react decisively. This has become an increasing criticism of the England manager in the pressure moments, although it really dates back to the Euro 2020 final, when he failed to force home England's advantage, leading 1-0 at Wembley, then failed to counter Italy's changes that took control of midfield. It arguably stretched back to Croatia's changes in the semi-final of the 2018 World Cup. What is unarguable is that England now have a stronger, more confident and experienced group of players.

The more significant test comes not really in the field of drams in Glasgow, however lively, but when England take on France or Portugal at the Euros next summer. But tonight is still hugely important for Southgate. Another disappointing display, after the draw with Ukraine, would trigger another flurry of unflattering headlines. He has studiously ignored all the reaction to Wroclaw, pointing out he has been busy watching videos of Scotland. "We have got to be strong because they are a good team and we are coming into an environment where you have got to have the personality to play."

It will be good to see Bellingham in a more central position. He has only just turned 20 but is impressing in his more advanced role with Real Madrid. Trippier played out there at Atletico, knows La Liga, knows the demands and is "not really surprised" that Bellingham has taken to Spanish football. "At such a young age, it's crazy how talented he is," Trippier said. "At such a young age, he has got the strong mentality. He plays like he has played 600 or 700 games already. It's crazy, his decision-making — he's confident but in a good way."

With players like Bellingham rising inexorably to world-class status, Southgate understandably trusts his players but it could still be a challenging, deafening night for England.

Scotland v England
Hampden Park
Kick-off: 7.45pm
TV: Channel 4
Radio: talkSPORT



Bellingham is expected to play in a more central position at Hampden



Kalvin Phillips, Eddie Nketiah, Fikayo Tomori, Aaron Ramsdale, Phil Foden and Conor Gallagher are ready for the challenge that Scotland pose at Hampden Park this evening



McTominay's success

Michael Grant
Scottish Football Correspondent

In February 2018, the Met Office warned that extreme bad weather meant everyone should stay at home and travel only if it was strictly necessary. The Scotland manager at the time felt his midfield could be improved and duly set off on a seven-hour round trip to make it happen. In Scotland, the betterment of the national team meets the criteria for "strictly necessary". Alex McLeish's arduous drive during the "Beast from the East" resulted in Scott McTominay being recruited to the cause. It was worth it.

McTominay was born in Lancaster but his dad is from Helensburgh, Argyll, and McLeish found that he was pushing at an open door. McTominay wanted to play for Scotland. According to the former Manchester United academy coach Brian McClair, McLeish was not exactly likely to find the England manager trying to beat him to it as he drove through the snow and ice. "Gareth Southgate sent a text," McClair said.

A sixth Euro 2024 goal in Cyprus last Friday meant that McTominay is the joint top scorer in all the qualifying groups. Against the country of his birth tonight he will earn his 43rd cap and inch closer to being the first English-born player to reach 50 for Scotland. A place on the SFA roll of honour awaits.

To the tune of Bonnie Tyler's *It's a Heartache* the Tartan Army will pay homage to the 26-year-old during the England game, goading the 2,900 English fans about a player for whom the Three Lions shirt held no appeal.

McTominay is a reminder of why Scotland discreetly pursue players like the Newcastle United pair Elliot Anderson and Harvey Barnes. Anderson was almost landed but now looks to have slipped the net, while Barnes may

EDDIE KEOGH/THE FA/GETTY IMAGES; IAN MACNICOL/GETTY IMAGES; ROBERT PERRY/PA







A brief history of the rivalry

This is the 116th meeting between England and Scotland – but the first in the month of September and only the second on a Tuesday.

The first England-Scotland match finished 0-0, as did the most recent one, but only two of the 113 meetings in between were goalless.

Most-played fixture between European nations:

Fixture	Meetings
Austria-Hungary	137
Belgium-Holland	129
England-Scotland	115

Englands record v Scotland

Won **48** Draw **26** Lost **41**

115 played

For **203** Against **174**

Home

Won **28** Draw **12** Lost **18**

58 played

For **123** Against **90**

Away

Won **20** Draw **13** Lost **123**

57 played

For **80** Against **84**

Biggest victories

England:

Apr 15, 1961: **England 9**, Scotland 3
Mar 17, 1888: Scotland 0, **England 5**
Apr 2, 1955: **England 7**, Scotland 2
Feb 14, 1973: Scotland 0, **England 5**

Scotland:

Mar 2, 1878: **Scotland 7**, England 2
Mar 12, 1881: England 1, **Scotland 6**

Most appearances

England

Player	Apps
B Wright	13
B Moore, B Charlton, B Crompton	12

Scotland

Player	Apps
B Walker, A, Morton	11
C Campbell, W Arnott, A Aitken, KDalglish	10

Colours worn

England: White 114, Red 1

Scotland: Blue 106, Primrose 8, Pink 1

By Bill Edgar

vindicates Scotland talent search

be lured by the near-certainty of Scotland qualifying for Euro 2024. Gone are the days when bloodline or grandparent-rule eligibility was a talking point for most of the Tartan Army. They are pragmatic and accept the sense of widening the talent pool. Scotland and McLeish's successor, Steve Clarke, would not be where they are without the contribution of the English-born Angus Gunn, Ché Adams and, especially, McTominay.

It would have been far harder for McTominay to break into the England midfield, let alone become one of their major influencers, as he is for Clarke. With Scotland he is everywhere. Clarke has played him on the right of a back three and on the right and centre of midfield. In Cyprus another role, as a forward-running No 8.

McTominay bossed things in Larnaca. It was as if he had been liberated from the captivity of United, where he has appeared only as an 85th and 88th-minute substitute in two games this season after a summer of speculation that he would be moved on. Clarke has told him to keep training professionally at United, that things will turn around for him, that everyone recognises what a talented footballer he is.

"He's a top guy and a top professional," Callum McGregor, his Scotland midfield colleague, said. "He's a brilliant athlete as well. More often than not he arrives in the box at the right time, through the timing of his runs as well as his athleticism. It's an understanding of when to get into the box or hang back for the cutback, as he's scored a few of those for us as well."

Clarke is philosophical about other eligible players failing to match McTominay's enthusiasm. "If we can find people who will improve us and who really, really want to be with us then we can improve the squad that way," he said. "If there are people who have a little doubt . . . I am not going to be phoning up and trying to persuade anybody to come."

Scotland were a match for England at Wembley in 2021 and the sides will be a real test for each other in a charged Hampden. It is a hostile venue where England have not lost since 1985 but even Spain's measured passing game could not function under Scotland's intensity and soaring self-belief as they were beaten 2-0 in Glasgow in March. McTominay scored both goals. This is an ancient meeting of neighbours, although Clarke lives in England and it is his actual ones he is determined to frustrate. "I don't want the neighbours chapping at my door laughing at me," he said. "It is a competitive friendly."

So much so that although Scotland will qualify for Euro 2024 if Norway and Georgia draw in Oslo tonight, yesterday it barely got a mention.

'Henderson fitter than ever after his Saudi move'

CONTINUED FROM BACK

complimentary about Foden, when asked if he could play in a midfield three for England in big games, he replied: "Well, he doesn't for his club.

"So presumably there is a reason for that. It depends on the level of the game, really. In the middle of the park, everyone wants to talk about the 'with the ball' but there is a lot of detail without the ball.

"And in games like at the weekend [against Ukraine], you are playing opponents who are so clever with their passing and movement that you have to be spot on with your pressing angles, your responsibilities. If you don't, you don't get the flow of the game.

"You'd have to speak to Pep [Guardiola], who is the best coach in the world, who plays him from wide. He's always got the freedom to drift if we play him wide. And that's important."

Southgate admitted he has discussed the topic with Guardiola and, when it was also put to him that Foden believes midfield is his best position, he added: "But he doesn't play there! We are very happy with Phil. He's played in the Euros, came on in the semi-final of the Euros and had a big impact. He's played in a World Cup for us, he's only 23 years old, he's got amazing experiences. He is still progressing and learning but he is a super player for us to have."

More likely is the prospect of Kalvin Phillips, Foden's City team-mate who has played just six minutes this season or Conor Gallagher coming into the team alongside Declan Rice and Jude Bellingham.

Jordan Henderson would make way after a week in which criticism of his decision to move from Liverpool to Al-Ettifaq in the Saudi Pro League in the summer was followed by a forensic dissection of his performance in Saturday's Euro 2024 qualifier with Ukraine, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Henderson actually posted the best physical statistics of his England career in a game in which he covered around 11 kilometres and out-performed his team-mates in terms of intensity. Providing he maintains those standards at his new club, it did not sound like Southgate was ready to consign the 33-year-old to England's past.

"We have been monitoring that [his physical condition] in terms of his training," Southgate said. "All of his data, he was hitting what he should have done. And his outputs on Saturday were the highest he has had at an England game.

"In terms of the job he was doing, he had to cover a lot of space. We had talked about it a lot. That midfield wasn't as tight as we might have been and Hendo and Dec [Rice] covered a lot of ground and closed a lot of spaces up. [He was] absolutely critical to us."

Aaron Ramsdale, the Arsenal goalkeeper, is expected to win a fourth cap and his first since England's 4-0 drubbing by Hungary at Molineux in June 2022. Yet Southgate is mindful of making wholesale changes against a Scotland side whose confidence is buoyant after a flawless start to their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign.

"We cannot fiddle around with the team because we are playing a top-level side, who are going to be at full tilt and giving us a high-level challenge," he said. "You cannot overly experiment because that would be ridiculous."

Relief at last for Page

Latvia	**0**
Wales *Ramsey 29 (pen), Brooks 90+6*	**2**

Hamzah Khalique-Loonat

Aaron Ramsey and David Brooks breathed life back into Wales's European Championship qualification campaign and lifted the pressure on manager Rob Page with only their second win in 14 matches.

The win for Wales over a team ranked 99 places below them keeps Page's side in fourth place in group D, three points behind second-placed Turkey.

Wales have been laboured and ponderous in recent matches but in Riga they looked fluent for extended periods. Their passes were short and crisp, and their movement was sharp and intelligent.

Brennan Johnson led the attack tirelessly, supported by Harry Wilson and the captain Ramsey, who created a midfield box of four with Ethan Ampadu and Jordan James that Latvia could not keep pace with.

By the 15th minute, Wales had racked up seven shots — the pick of those belonging to Johnson and Connor Roberts — and by half-time they had amassed 12. Amid the attacks was the calming influence of Ramsey. Relaxed and assured, he offered guidance to his team-mates about when and where to press or move; when Ramsey looked to find Roberts in the 27th minute it was a surprise his pass was overhit. But Roberts hooked it back towards Wilson, who earned a penalty by backing into Kaspars Dubra. Ramsey cooly sent Roberts Ozols the wrong way from the spot.

Wales were put on the back foot for the last ten minutes of the first half. A brief lapse of concentration allowed Janis Ikaunieks in at the back post and he headed at Danny Ward. Then, from the subsequent corner, the goalkeeper flailed at the cross, and a diving Raimonds Krollis missed the gaping goal.

Wales's biggest challenge lay in how the team would respond to losing Ramsey, who was replaced four minutes into the second half as a precaution. Wales continued to create but had to wait until stoppage time when Ramsey's replacement, Brooks, who had wasted a good opportunity, scored with a deft chip.

Latvia (4-2-3-1): R Ozols 7 — R Savalnieks 5, K Dubra 5, A Cernomordijs 5, A Ciganiks 5 — E Emsls 5, K Tobers 6 — A Jaunzems 6 (E Daskevics 86min), R Krollis 6, J Ikaunieks 6 — R Uldrikis 5 (M Regza 86) **Booked** Dubra, Ikauneiks, Savalnieks, Tobers, Emsis, Ciganiks.
Wales (5-4-1): D Ward 6 — C Roberts 7, B Davies 6, C Mepham 6, J Rodon 6, N Williams 7 — J James 7, H Wilson 7, E Ampadu 7, A Ramsey 7 (D Brooks 49) — B Johnson 7 (T Bradshaw 88). **Booked** Mepham.
Referee M Oceanas (Slo)

Sport

Novak's not done yet
How Djokovic could get to 30 grand-slam singles titles
Page 54



Pogba tests positive for testosterone

World Cup winner faces potential four-year ban

Tom Allnutt, Matt Lawton

Paul Pogba has been provisionally suspended by the Italian anti-doping agency after testing positive for testosterone, and could face a ban of up to four years if the result is confirmed.

Pogba delivered the result in a routine test after Juventus's opening Serie A match of the season away to Udinese on August 20. The former Manchester United midfielder had been an unused substitute in the game, which Juventus won 3-0.

Nado Italia, the anti-doping agency, said Pogba has been suspended provisionally with immediate effect.

Pogba could request the analysis of a second sample from the test. He could be banned for up to two years if the positive result is confirmed and four years if it is proven he took the substance intentionally.

When contacted by The Times, a representative for Pogba declined to comment publicly until they had established more detail about what the player had been accused of. They were understood to be baffled by the positive test.

Pogba was once considered one of the best players in the world but his career has nosedived in recent years. Manchester United paid a world-record £89 million to re-sign the Frenchman in 2016 but he returned to Juventus on a free transfer last year after a hugely disappointing spell at Old Trafford, which was marked by injuries, underwhelming performances and a public spat with José Mourinho, then the United manager.

A reunion with Juventus has failed to spark a revival. Pogba was ravaged by further injury problems last season and made only ten appearances for the Italian club.

Testosterone, and its impact on athletic performance, has been central to the debate across sport over the participation of transgender athletes. It was also the drug at the centre of the UK Anti-Doping investigation into Richard Freeman, the former doctor for British Cycling and Team Sky, which resulted in him receiving a four-year ban last month. He had ordered testosterone patches and then lied both to colleagues and investigators when the delivery was discovered at the National Cycling Centre in Manchester in 2011.

But for drug cheats, testosterone remains a popular choice. A study commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency described it as "the major contributor to steroid doping worldwide".

When Lance Armstrong admitted to doping in his interview with Oprah Winfrey in 2013, testosterone was one of the drugs listed along with EPO, cortisone, human growth hormone and illegal blood transfusions.

Dennis Mitchell, the former American sprinter and Olympic gold medallist, was banned after testing positive for testosterone. He famously claimed that, on the eve of his test, he had drunk six bottles of beer and had sex with his

Continued on page 58

EDDIE KEOGH/THE FA/GETTY IMAGES



150 years, two teams, one rivalry

England captain Harry Kane and Scotland counterpart Andrew Robertson wear special anniversary training kits before the next installment of the oldest international fixture in football at Hampden Park tonight, pages 60-61

Southgate has Foden doubts

Paul Joyce

Gareth Southgate has raised doubts over the suitability of Phil Foden to pin down a role in England's midfield as he warned of the threat a fervent Scotland will pose at Hampden Park tonight.

The England coach has been considering whether to pitch the Manchester City starlet into his line-up for the friendly against the auld enemy, although Southgate suggested it would be in an attacking role rather than as one of his three midfielders.

The make-up of England's engine room continues to provoke intense debate, but Southgate was quite emphatic on where he sees Foden, insisting he has been starting for City from high on the right flank this season and adding that experimenting against an in-form Scotland would be "ridiculous".

While Southgate was generally

Continued on page 61

Sinfield rocket saved England

Will Kelleher
Deputy Rugby Correspondent

A "rocket" to his players from defence coach Kevin Sinfield helped England to victory over Argentina.

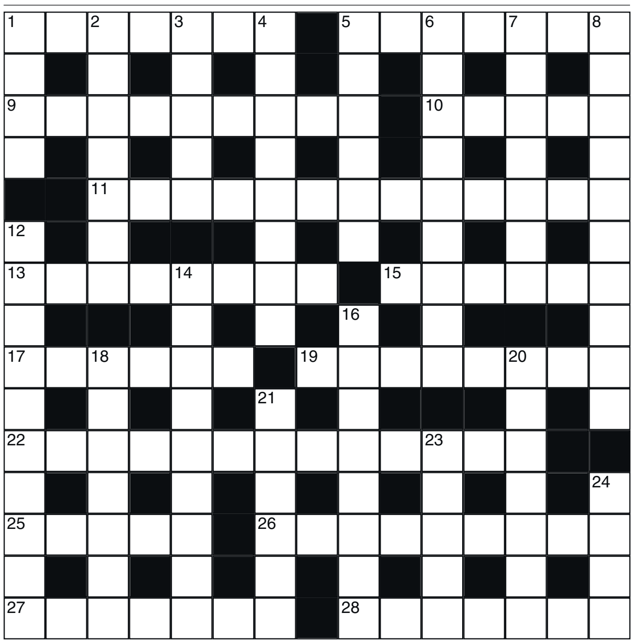
Sinfield delivered his verdict after England gave a poor defensive display in the 30-22 World Cup warm-up defeat by Fiji at Twickenham. England bounced back to beat Argentina 27-10 in their tournament opener on Saturday, despite playing most of the game with 14 men.

"We got a bit of a rocket after that [Fiji] game," said Freddie Steward, the England full back. "There were no complaints about that, it needed to happen.

"We had a very thorough review, which we needed, and we reaped the benefits [in the win against Argentina]. That was necessary for that to happen."

Full story, page 57

Times Crossword 28,706



ACROSS

1 Fruit went up in price? Hiked at first by smallest amount (7)
5 Harry taken in by smooth cheat (7)
9 Raiment so fashionable — that's good for evening out (5,4)
10 Key used by Scottish group making harsh sound (5)
11 Walking to pub, real man resolved to neck one (13)
13 Retired bore back amongst Aussies missing flight (8)
15 Like some Cretan scripts nonsensical poet keeps at home (6)
17 Kick in the teeth from theological expert? (6)
19 Place of massacre, or safe place to go? (8)
22 What the bridesmaid shows? Rum's location (5,8)
25 Small island in centre of this nation (5)
26 Collection for each politician after resistance by English (9)
27 First Lady having snooze — struggle here getting up? (7)
28 Earthy expression used endlessly by Descartes? (7)

DOWN

1 Volcanic product seen after Ranau's initial eruption (4)
2 Telescope firm put out for modification shows tower (7)
3 Big hit from Ruth as poet? (5)
4 Secret lover for Parisian entertaining alpha male? (8)
5 Fine cooking expected in dish for dippers (6)
6 Fruit from tree in can that needs a shake (9)
7 Stone from six counties placed in jar (7)
8 Eastern figure seizing good opportunity gets influential part (6,4)
12 Plea for patience heard from Queen, her afternoon tea guest having arrived? (4,4,2)
14 Assume tradesman finishing early is not productive (9)
16 Fiat lacking finish? Mine's in late stages of decay (8)
18 Warmer outside on day to remember? (7)
20 Flexible line is what this writer's all about! (7)
21 Feel remorse having run over white bird (6)
23 Article in German featuring old city artist (5)
24 Yorkshireman extremely testy with reduced knowledge (4)

Yesterday's solution 28,705



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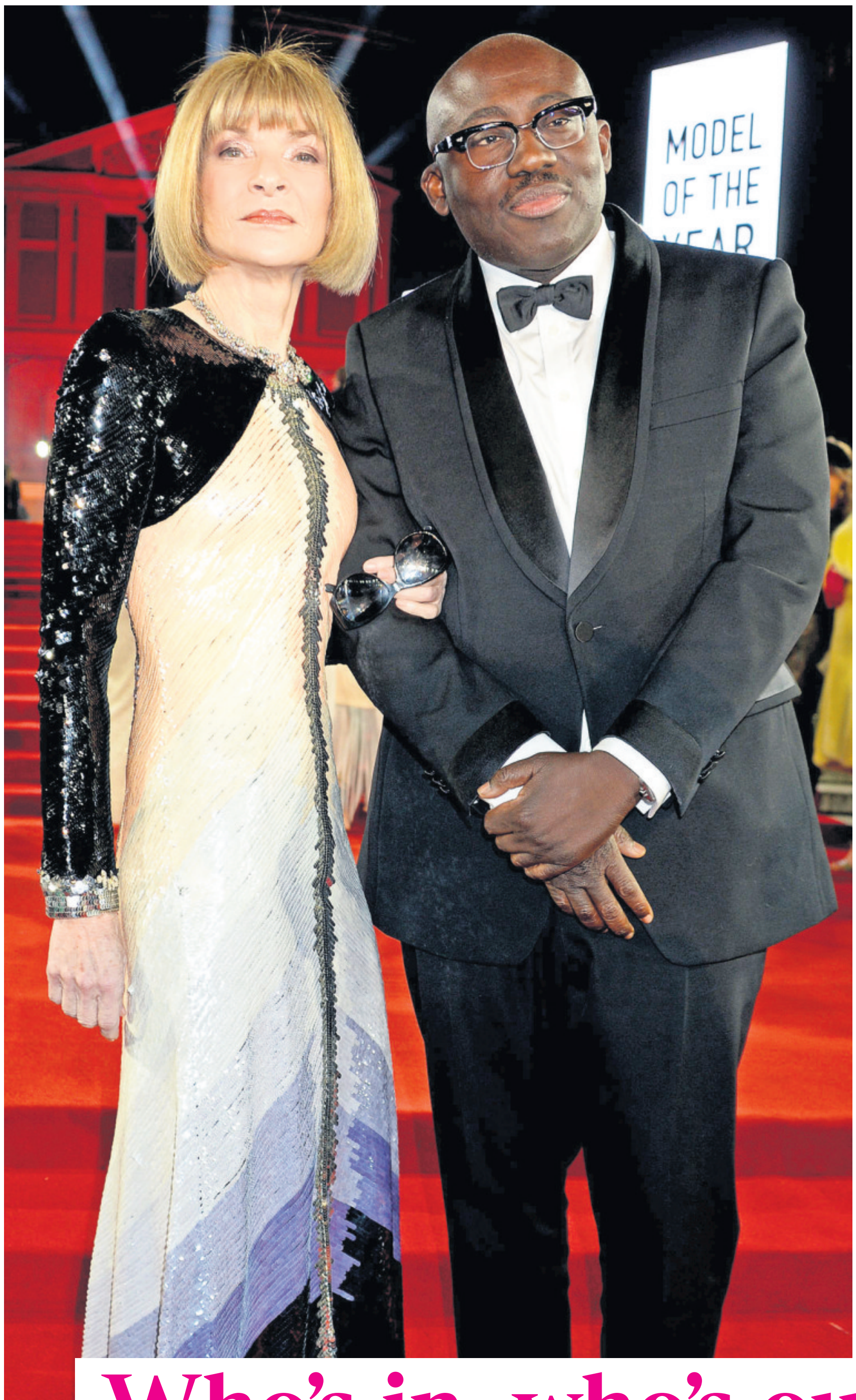
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TIMES 2

September 12 | **2023**





Who's in, who's out at Vogue

The new star at Condé Nast

Above: Anna Wintour and Edward Enninful. Right: Chioma Nnadi

The lesson Luis Rubiales should have learnt from his three daughters…

Robert Crampton


GETTY IMAGES

It's excellent news that, three weeks since sexually assaulting Jenni Hermoso after the World Cup final, Luis Rubiales has, finally, departed. It is not excellent that, even in resignation, he's still moaning and playing the victim. Some say if only he'd apologised straight off, he'd have been able to keep his job as president of the Spanish Football Federation. Yet the evidence is clear-cut that he didn't apologise because he didn't think he'd done anything wrong.

Just like his mum, who started a bizarre hunger strike in a church on her son's behalf, Rubiales thinks he's fallen foul of a feminist witch-hunt. He hasn't. He's just come up against a woman, with a whole load of other women standing with her, who wasn't going to take any crap any longer. Every time Hermoso is supposed to shut up and give up, she doubles down. I admire her enormously.

Rubiales has revealed that his three teenage daughters influenced his decision to relinquish his job. They told him "to focus on your dignity and to continue your life", he says. I'd love to know precisely what Lucia, Ana and Elena actually said. Was it, "Dad, you've got to go, you can't win"? Or was it, "Dad, you've got to go, what you did was wrong. And what you've said and done since was wrong too"?

Rubiales first referenced his girls in one of his defiant, I'm-not-quitting speeches. He played the "as a father of daughters" card, frequently slapped down by middle-aged men caught behaving badly towards women. If you think it through, the "I couldn't possibly disrespect women, one of my kids is a girl" argument isn't very persuasive. For one thing, it is offensive to imply that fathers of exclusively sons, or men who aren't fathers of anybody, are that bit more likely to view themselves as superior to women than men such as Rubiales (and me, as it happens) who have been civilised, socialised and educated by our female offspring.

You hear the same line from male politicians, police officers and commentators when worrying about the safety of young women on the streets. But I'd like to think my condemnation of sexual harassment or assault would be just as robust had my


Luis Rubiales carrying Athenea del Castillo after the World Cup final

second child been born a boy, like the first. You shouldn't support greater equality for women just because it might mean your girl stands less chance of being attacked or more chance of getting a pay rise. Such a view is a bit, well, selfish.

The one thing you do learn as the father of a daughter, which might perhaps pass you by otherwise, is the level of hassle, sometimes unpleasant, more often just tiresome, that young women receive from some men daily. Such behaviour is rarely as blatant as being grabbed and snogged on the lips by the boss with the world watching, but is still unwelcome, non-consensual, possibly illegal. That's the lesson Rubiales should have learnt from his daughters, but evidently didn't, and apparently still hasn't.

What buried Rubiales for me from the off wasn't just the kiss, it was the crotch grab that preceded it. Which is to say that if he was on the side of the angels then, given a sufficiently humble grovel, he could have explained the kiss as an excess of euphoria. Not classy, not trivial, but perhaps, in those circumstances, forgivable by Hermoso. Given that creepy, vulgar, frankly downright weird self-fondle, however, it seems obvious what kind of chap he is. Decent men just don't do that kind of thing. Not in public at any rate. In your jimjams watching the football, maybe. But not if you're actually on the telly.

My bike theft solution

Respect to the pro cyclist Damian Groves, who, despairing of police indifference towards retrieving his stolen bikes, tracked all four of them down in Poland, then went over there and got them back himself. Groves forked out £6,000 on travel, a drone and hiring a private eye, but seeing as his wheels are worth six times that, it was money well spent. Besides, it's the principle of the thing.

Back in the old days, in my part of east London, finding your stolen bike meant trawling along Brick Lane market the next Sunday morning, early, then entering a debate with the vendor. Several of my friends did just that. Not me. I prefer to prevent crime at source by sticking with a machine way too slow and old to be worth nicking.

Harry's dive is not that stylish

My verdict on Harry Styles's dive: seven out of ten. Yep, that may sound harsh, and no doubt Harry is going to be devastated, but I can't help that. I speak as I find and if people get upset, tough. His plunge into the cooling depths of the mixed ponds at Hampstead Heath at the weekend, much praised (and not only for the display of muscular back and chiselled arms, but for the technique), was in truth a bit wonky. Study the photos carefully and Harry breaks the surface at a slight angle, his body rotated about ten degrees off true, his legs slightly apart.

It looks to me like he slipped on take-off. No shame in that. I don't like to mention it (more than once a week or so), but I once went synchronised diving with Tom Daley, so I know what I'm talking about. If Tom's dives are a ten, and mine are a three, then Harry should be pleased with his seven.

Is this woman

She's the Londoner who looks set to replace Edward Enninful at British Vogue — can Chioma Nnadi make the fashion bible rock, asks Harriet Walker

It is New York Fashion Week, yet behind the sunglasses the front row gaze is trained not on the models stomping down its catwalks but the comings and goings along the corridors of power at Vogue.

On Thursday night Anna Wintour and the outgoing editor of the British edition, Edward Enninful, will co-host Vogue World at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in London, a black-tie celebration of the nation's arts, fashion and culture. Think the annual Royal Variety Performance, but with more queens.

All the £150 tickets — some given free to students, and profits going to performing arts organisations — are long since sold out and there is a waiting list for seats. The magazine is said to be flying in its top-tier Vogue100 members, who pay $100,000 a year to be in the exclusive club. In charge of proceedings is the Oscar-nominated Stephen Daldry; many believe that the director of *The Crown* was chosen because he is well versed in staging coronations.

After the announcement in June that Enninful, 51, would step back in January to become an "editorial adviser", the industry is sizing up his soon-to-be vacated desk at the magazine's London office and European HQ. They are refreshing the networking site LinkedIn to see whether Condé Nast's post for a "head of editorial content — British Vogue" is still marked "actively recruiting" (at the time of writing: yes). And they are wondering who might be the right fit in a role many believe Enninful assumed would be a staging post to the even bigger corner office in NYC.

Most of all, however, they are appraising the capital's housing stock like so many Mrs Bennets. Wintour, the 73-year-old editor-in-chief at US Vogue and global editorial director of the media brand, is reportedly looking to move back to the city in which she grew up, provided she can find a place with a tennis court — and it looks like she won't be returning alone either.

With her comes 44-year-old Chioma Nnadi, the editor of the American edition's digital arm, vogue.com, and a global network lead — which is to say she is in charge of the glossy's online universe already. Everything points to the born-and-bred Londoner of Nigerian and Swiss-German descent (said to be single and keen to relocate closer to family here) taking over from Enninful when he leaves. Insiders expect an announcement as soon as this week — perhaps even before the spring 2024 catwalk shows transfer to London this Friday.

"Chioma is a great choice," one such snout says. "She is serious and clever and really knows her stuff. She doesn't suffer fools."

Then again, also in the running is Sarah Harris, the European deputy editor and another global network lead, who has worked on British Vogue's fashion features desk for almost 20 years. Thanks to her 280,000 Instagram followers and trademark silver mane of hair, Harris has become something of a face for — and influencer on behalf of — the magazine in recent years. Likewise Mark Holgate, another Brit in New York since 2003, who as the US edition's fashion news director spends most of September and February sitting next to Wintour on the front row. The New Yorker Mark Guiducci, the brand's creative editorial director charged with masterminding Vogue World, has been mentioned, as has the former editor of the Evening Standard (and Vogue deputy from 2005 until 2017) Emily Sheffield, the sister of Samantha Cameron.

There are whispers that the news might break at Vogue World on Thursday. Kate Moss is involved with the event, as is Victoria Beckham. Ian McKellen, Sophie Okonedo and Cara Delevingne are also in the cast. Delevingne spoke openly about drug addiction and going sober in the magazine's April issue, in an article by … Chioma Nnadi.

"She's a great interviewer," a former colleague tells me. "She's very astute and aware of what's going on in the world."

"Chioma isn't the terrifying fashion editor of old," another Condé Nast insider says. "She's quite shy one-on-one, and very calm. She's one of those people that pauses before she answers a question."

Nnadi started out on the features desk at the Evening Standard — of which Wintour's father, Charles, was once editor — before moving to the States in the Noughties to write for the urban and hip-hop title Trace. She then became style director at the music magazine Fader before joining US Vogue as a fashion writer. In those circles, this route already marks her out as somewhat "alt" — that she went to a state school and is a graduate of the University of Manchester further cements her rep as more indie than the rest of Wintour's famously Wasp-pedigree team.

"She's Brooklyn, not Manhattan — she isn't friends with Lauren Santo Domingo," a New York fashion veteran comments, with reference to the former Vogue staffer and 0.01 per cent entrepreneur at the centre of sleek Manhattan society.

Or, to quote a fashion PR who has seen it all: "Off the record, [Nnadi] is the nicest person I've ever dealt with at Vogue."

This is no small detail given that Anna's famous froideur generated the nickname "Nuclear" Wintour, and Enninful's six-year tenure has been dogged by rumours of internal jostling and diva-style strops among the team. Check in with journalists, agents and

Wintour's secret weapon?

COVER: REX FEATURES; GETTY IMAGES. BELOW: GETTY IMAGES





Edward Enninful, Jennifer Lopez and Anna Wintour in New York last week. Right: Chioma Nnadi

PRs and the verdict returned on Nnadi — who wears trainers and vintage alongside the expected designer garb — takes the form of the fashion industry's highest praise: "normal".

At the magazine's annual Met Gala ball for the past two years Nnadi has chosen to support up-and-coming talents by wearing young designers such as Claire Sullivan and James Garland rather than household names. Garland, who has also dressed A$AP Rocky, created a sparkling durag for Nnadi that she wore on the red carpet with long braids.

"You can take the girl out of London," her Vogue contributor page reads, "but you can't take London out of the girl."

There is even a rumour abroad that Nnadi lives with a flatmate, or did until recently — hardly unusual given rents in Manhattan, but perhaps a first for a senior Vogue editor. She probably won't need to share in London, though her salary at British Vogue is likely to be less than Enninful's. He is believed to be paid more than £500,000 a year.

"He has been very expensive for the company," says a denizen of Vogue House, the Hanover Square base of six decades that Condé Nast is leaving this year. "His Vogue started off with Grayson Perry and Tracey Emin writing, but by the second issue it was just pictures. If Alex's [Shulman, the editor before Enninful] Vogue was Boden catalogue, his was Hello! magazine: Naomi Campbell and Emma Weymouth drinking champagne felt even more cliquey."

It is indisputable, however, that Vogue's first male and first black editor increased the visibility of ethnic minority models and diversity more generally on its pages. Enninful also enlisted Zadie Smith, Salman Rushdie and Meghan Markle as highbrow and hefty contributors — progress that any successor would hope to build on.

> "Chioma is serious and clever and knows her stuff. She doesn't suffer fools

"Too often I look around … fashion week and I'm one of a handful of black and brown faces," Nnadi told the Council of Fashion Designers of America in 2018. "Black creatives are underrepresented at every level … Racism is a systemic problem."

Enninful's arrival at Vogue led to what some described as a "posh girl exodus" in the wake of Shulman's departure, and his approach generated plenty of publicity in "clickbait" moments: an exclusive with Beyoncé, a cover featuring Rihanna and her baby, the first interview with Coleen Rooney post-Wagatha.

Yet there has been controversy on the newsstands too. The latest September issue of British Vogue was criticised for photoshopping the fiftysomething supermodels on its cover. In the same issue the decision to include the trans cyclist Emily Bridges as the only athlete in its annual female power list — despite the success of the Lionesses and several of Team GB in the World Athletics Championships — was described in the tabloids as "cynical wokery", seen as part of a strategy to engage a progressive and often activist Gen Z readership.

"Chioma is more nuanced," her ex-colleague says. "She's good with young people, and attuned to women's rights."

Nnadi is also the closest at Vogue to being a digital native, having moved to work on its website under Sally Singer, then its editor and now head of Amazon's fashion direction, in 2014. In Vogue terms this makes Nnadi an early adopter: when I (briefly) worked at the magazine's London office that year, its print and digital teams were so separate they barely spoke. One could say a certain snobbery existed; I couldn't possibly comment.

Since then, the title's international outposts have been what media types term, with dread, "hubbed".

The once-mighty French and Italian editions, not to mention Vogue Germany, Greece and Scandinavia, have proxy (mainly digital) editors — many of them younger millennials — but their content is largely decided in London and New York, then shared internationally with slight differences. Chinese Vogue's editor-in-chief, the Australian-born Margaret Zhang, is a former blogger and model who was born in 1993; its founding editor, the journalist Angelica Cheung, 57, left in 2020.

This week's Vogue World event is proof of the brand's intention to evolve further. Speaking at a lunch for British magazine editors in June, Wintour insisted that the future of media lay not in chasing search engine traffic but in trusted titles doing what they were good at across every platform and channel available.

In Anna Wintour's own words, when promoting Nnadi to editor of vogue.com in 2020: "[Chioma] respects our iconic past, but is not tied to old traditions."

"Some people want Vogue to be fashion and beautiful images," says a source who worked there under Shulman's ancien regime. "Others want it to be a cultural chronicle of our time."

Whoever gets the job will have to try to make it both, at a time when the luxury sector is booming but most people are hard up. Even trickier than that, they will have to make Vogue cool again too.

The lowdown
Jennifer Aniston



What's your post-workout routine?
High-five with the instructor, protein shake, shirtless selfie — obviously.

Really?
No. Not at all. I briefly revel in the thrill of it being over, shower, accept that my face is going to be a not unnoticeable shade of red until lunchtime and start dreading the next one.

It might not surprise you to hear that Jennifer Aniston has an ever so slightly different routine.
Not really, she has an ever so slightly different everything to me — figure included.

Well, not for long, perhaps.
Spare me.

Maybe you just need some compression pants like hers.
That's very kind, but I've tried Spanx. There is really only so much they can do.

I'm talking about a techie gym item: inflatable trousers that claim to help to increase circulation via a lymphatic drainage massage.
Oh right. Well, no, my local David Lloyd definitely doesn't have a pair of those available for use.

I don't think they're the norm in gyms outside Hollywood — where Aniston posted a selfie wearing a pair while lying, starfish-style, on the floor.
What an image!

Indeed. She was wearing what is known as the Ballancer Pro Pants, starting from $17,900. Per the website, the item provides "WELLNESS benefits".
Wow. So much emphasis on wellness.



Apparently the miracle puffy trousers can reduce stress, aid sleep and digestion, and improve immunity.
I hear taking a long holiday can do the same.

Plus slimming, toning and cellulite reduction, obviously.
Ah. I sense those perks are of more value.

Hannah Rogers

health

Vascular dementia: it's sad news for Alastair Stewart — so act now

Dr Mark Porter

The television journalist Alastair Stewart's recent diagnosis of early vascular dementia has helped to highlight a condition that has long lived in the shade of its more common relation, Alzheimer's disease. Both types of dementia, which between them account for at least 80 per cent of cases in the UK, have a profound effect on cognitive function and behaviour, and are very difficult to treat. However, vascular dementia is easier to prevent. And these preventive measures can slow progression in established cases too.

Vascular dementia is an umbrella term for cognitive decline or damage caused by interruption of the brain's blood supply. This can occur after a stroke, either an obvious one caused by a large clot or bleed, or repeated mini-strokes (TIAs — see right) that may be missed, as was the case for Stewart, 71. In most people, onset is more subtle and caused by gradual narrowing and "sludging" of the circulation as seen elsewhere in the body, including the coronary arteries supplying the heart. And finally it can follow vascular damage done by the sort of clogging proteins deposited in the brain in Alzheimer's disease.

Whatever the cause, the net result is the same. Parts of the brain are starved of their normal blood supply and don't function as they should. Symptoms vary, but typical early signs of trouble include poor concentration, problems with planning and organising, and difficulty doing complex tasks like navigating while driving and following lengthy instructions such as a recipe. In a recent interview Stewart said that he had felt "discombobulated" for about nine months before his diagnosis and had become less punctual and switched to slip-on shoes because he found tying his shoelaces tricky.

Other clues include confusion, hallucinations and changes in mood, behaviour and personality — people often become depressed or anxious or fly off the handle over things that would not normally bother them. Memory loss, typically for more recent events, is another symptom, but tends to be less common and, at least initially, less marked than in Alzheimer's disease.

A formal diagnosis is normally made after specialist assessment and following brain scans. Available dementia drugs like donepezil (Aricept) are targeted at helping symptoms in people with Alzheimer's disease, but are sometimes used in vascular dementia, particularly if a mixed form is suspected. However, most interventions, other than counselling, talking therapies and support — for patient and carer/family — are aimed at slowing progression.

The highest priority in most people will be to control high blood pressure and mitigate other factors that could


The broadcaster Alastair Stewart

further damage the brain's delicate circulation. Medication is important here with options ranging from blood pressure and cholesterol-lowering pills (statins) to treating raised blood sugar in diabetes and medication like aspirin and clopidogrel to reduce the likelihood of further strokes. However, also important are lifestyle measures like eating a healthy diet, losing excess weight, exercising, stopping smoking and drinking sensibly. Yes, those old chestnuts, but there is a rationale behind the adage "what's good for the heart is good for the brain".

Sadly, the prognosis for vascular dementia isn't good. The average life expectancy is just five years from diagnosis, compared with eight to ten for Alzheimer's disease. Age remains the biggest risk factor — vascular dementia is uncommon in people under 65 — but while none of us can hold back the progression of time, we can influence other factors that prematurely age our circulation. You don't need me to spell them out (again), but there are two risk areas you may not be so familiar with.

First, snoring. More specifically obstructive sleep apnoea, where heavy snorers stop breathing multiple times during the night. Sleep apnoea is linked to a greater risk of developing a range of problems, including stroke, TIA, Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia. You will find more details on the condition here: https://bit.ly/487SQB3. Suffice to say that if you have sleep apnoea, you should tackle it (options range from losing weight to sleeping in a special mask).

Second, never ignore a funny turn that could be a mini-stroke/TIA. They are called transient ischaemic attacks because they resolve completely, often within minutes, but that does not mean they can be dismissed. So if you develop symptoms like slurred speech, struggling to find your words, odd weakness or pins and needles, report it. At worst a TIA could herald a big stroke on the horizon, and at best indicates underlying problems that require medical and lifestyle intervention. Remember, if it is bad for your heart, it is likely to be bad for your brain. And you need both for a happy and healthy life.

For more information on managing vascular dementia, including available support for patients and carers, visit alzheimers.org.uk



The facts about mini-strokes

● **A transient ischaemic attack (mini-stroke) is a medical emergency and should be treated as such. If you suspect you are having one, dial 999.**

● **Think FAST:**
Face — is there weakness or a lopsided smile?
Arms — can you raise both and keep them there?
Speech — is it slurred?
Time to act — dial 999

● **Other symptoms include visual disturbance, confusion, headache/muzzy head and/or difficulty finding the right words.**

● **Migraines can mimic TIAs in some people, but don't assume it's a migraine if a) you are not a regular sufferer or b) this one is different.**

Chilled or hot:

A new scientific study claims that it doesn't have to be such a guilty pleasure — it's how you cook and serve it that makes the difference. By Peta Bee

You might think that loading up on pasta is a fast route to inches gained round the middle. Yet the nutrition scientists Lisa Sanders and Joanne Slavin — the latter a professor in the department of food science and nutrition at the University of Minnesota — suggest otherwise, claiming that their findings show pasta does not hinder weight loss or contribute to weight gain, can benefit gut health and might even be helpful as part of a healthy weight-loss plan.

For their recent paper in the journal Nutrients, the pair analysed 38 published studies on pasta intake and body weight, and found no association between the amount of regular white pasta that people consume and their odds of being overweight or having a larger-than-average waist or hip circumference. Wholegrain, gluten-free and added-protein pasta were excluded from the trials, as were egg and rice noodles.

It's good news for a nation of pasta enthusiasts, many of whom may have assumed that the much-maligned Italian staple had to be sidelined if the scales were displaying less than favourable figures.

White carbs including pasta are often panned for being low in nutrients and fibre and having a high glycaemic index (GI), which causes sharp increases and subsequent drops in blood sugar. In response to these blood-sugar peaks, the pancreas releases insulin, a hormone that helps to stabilise levels by prompting cells to absorb sugar from the bloodstream. But over time this process becomes less efficient and not only is the risk of type 2 diabetes increased, but the sugar your cells doesn't use is stored as fat. The more refined foods you eat, the more blood-sugar spikes you experience and the hungrier — and thus more prone to snacking — you become. It's a vicious cycle, but one with which pasta has been somewhat unjustly aligned.

Despite being made from the unfashionable refined-grain durum wheat (also called semolina flour), which Sanders says "contributes to its perception as fattening", pasta stands apart from products such as processed breakfast cereals in that it doesn't have the same high GI associated with deteriorating health and weight gain.

"Not all refined carbs are the same," Sanders says. "The way pasta is made creates a unique, compact structure that causes the carbohydrates to digest slowly in the body, giving a lower glycaemic response, which may contribute to a healthy body weight."

In fact, she says, the GI of white pasta is approximately 50-55, which is significantly lower than that of white bread (100). "Most vegetables and legumes — beans and pulses — are low-GI foods," Sanders says. "Pasta is similar in that respect."

How you cook and serve pasta makes a difference to its health profile too. First, aim for al dente rather than soggy — the carbs in uncooked pasta are classed as resistant starch, a form that is difficult for our digestive enzymes to break down into glucose and doesn't make our blood sugar rise in the same way as other carbs.

"When we cook pasta, the heat and water change the structure of the resistant starch and make it much easier for our bodies to digest it," says Dr Tracey Robertson, a researcher — and pasta aficionado — in the University of Surrey's department of nutritional sciences. "This takes time, however, so when we eat our pasta al dente, some of that starch will not yet

> **Most vegetables and legumes are low-GI foods. Pasta is similar**

have been changed to the more easily digestible form and therefore will have less of an effect on our blood glucose."

Allowing it to cool slightly — or eating it cold in a pasta salad — is another tip. As the carbs in pasta cool down they reorganise back into resistance starch, lowering its GI even if it has been overcooked. "There's the added benefit that resistant starch acts like fibre and can become a source of nourishment for the microbes in the gut," Robertson says. The longer pasta is cooled, the more resistant starch forms, and studies have shown chilled pasta to cause a lower rise in blood sugar than pasta served hot.

If you don't like it cold, then reheating cooled pasta is an option. In her own research Robertson compared the blood-sugar responses of identical pasta meals (served with olive oil and tomato sauce), when freshly cooked, chilled and chilled but reheated, on a group of healthy people. The study, published in the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition, found that the blood-sugar peak was predictably smaller when the pasta was eaten cold than when it was piping hot, but also that the participants experienced the smallest peak when it was cooked, chilled then reheated.

There is some evidence that pasta and to a lesser extent rice suppress the production of the hunger hormone ghrelin for longer than other white carbs, including potatoes. "In theory, if we suppress ghrelin for longer after a meal, then we will take longer to get hungry again," Robertson

how healthy is your pasta?

STOCK FOOD



Opt for pasta with a tomato sauce rather than a creamy one

says. "However, there hasn't been a lot of research in this area, and in the studies I know of they didn't control the amount that people ate, so it makes it difficult to compare the different foods."

Pasta trumps other white carbs in a number of ways, including what Sanders refers to as its "gastric emptying rate", or the speed at which it leaves the stomach and goes into the intestine for further digestion and absorption. "If the gastric emptying rate of a food is slower, as we showed it is for pasta, then food is digested more slowly, which has the potential to lower the glycaemic response, extend feelings of fullness or satiety and ultimately reduce calorie intake," she says. One of the main nutritional advantages is its protein content. "Pasta has 5 to 6 per cent protein, compared with white rice and potatoes, which are about 2 per cent," Sanders says. "The interaction of protein and carbohydrate in pasta contributes to the lower GI and potentially to its satiating effect."

> The pasta itself is not fattening, although it is nutrient-dense

While potatoes have more potassium, pasta and potatoes have more fibre than white rice.

Of course, it is often not pasta that is to blame for loading extra calories, but portion size. The British Nutrition Foundation says that the amount of dry pasta in two cupped hands, or about 75g of dry pasta (about 180g when cooked), is enough for one person and that most of us throw too much into a pan, with the result that we eat more of it, as well as more of the sauce that we put on it. "The pasta itself is not fattening, although it is nutrient-dense, but rather it is what we eat it with and how much we pile on our plates," Robertson says. "If you eat it with a tomato or vegetable-based sauce, it will be a lot less fattening than with a buttery, creamy or cheesy rich sauce such as alfredo."

She eats pasta two to three times a week, as does Sanders, who eats plenty of pasta salads with veggies, legumes and healthy oils, and uses orzo pasta in recipes that call for white rice. "Pasta can be a very healthy addition," she says. "It will not cause weight gain if it is consumed in the context of a healthy diet."

4 other foods that aren't as bad for you as you think . . .

Mashed potatoes

Another much-vilified white carb, potatoes are a valuable source of nutrients in the diet, according to Dr Tracey Robertson and her team at the University of Surrey. Potatoes supply useful levels of vitamin C, vitamin B6, folate, iron, fibre (particularly in the skin) and potassium, a nutrient that plays a key role in controlling blood pressure. One study at Purdue University showed that a daily 330-calorie serving (2-3 small or medium boiled potatoes or one large baked potato) helped to reduce blood pressure in people with hypertension. Eating the skin reduces overall GI, as does mashing with olive oil or butter.

Fruit juice

Last week a team from the University of Toronto reported in the scientific journal Plos One that drinking a small glass of orange juice every day could help to lower blood pressure. Yes, it contains sugar, but of the natural variety, and it's present alongside vitamins and beneficial plant compounds called flavonoids that have an anti-inflammatory effect on the body. While not as effective as eating an orange, juice was far more beneficial than drinks with added sugar, such as cola, which were associated with a rise in blood pressure.



Instant coffee

Instant is considered less healthy than freshly roasted beans because it is more highly processed, and some studies have shown that it contains a greater amount of a compound called acrylamide, which is toxic at extremely high levels (far more than you would get from a regular coffee habit). But all roasted coffee beans have been shown to contain some acrylamide, and a redeeming feature of instant is that it has also been shown to have nearly twice as much fibre as filter coffee, as well as a much higher concentration of beneficial polyphenols and antioxidants than fresh roasted.

Popcorn

Obviously we are not talking about the buttered and toffee-coated variety, but plain air-popped popcorn has a host of nutritional virtues. Scientists at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania showed that the hull — the bit that gets caught in the teeth — contains a high concentration of beneficial plant polyphenols and may be a "significant source" of antioxidants. A study in the journal Frontiers in Microbiology showed that the popcorn is high in fibre, also thanks to the hull, and that the gut produces more butyrate — a short-chain fatty acid important for a healthy microbiome — when it is being digested.

? Ask the experts

What can I do to prevent sunspots?

Dr Sebastian Bejma, advanced aesthetic doctor and managing director of Dr Bejma Medical Clinic

Sunspots, or age spots as they are also known, are caused by overactive pigment cells called melanocytes, which produce an accumulation of melanin in the skin. This is usually a result of overexposure to the sun's UV rays. The spots range in colour from light brown to black and have the same texture as the rest of your skin. They most commonly occur in over-40s, typically in areas of the body that receive the most sun exposure. While age spots are harmless, if you notice an increase in coloured spots on the skin it's important to see your doctor to rule out anything more sinister.



To prevent sunspots, avoid direct exposure to the sun by wearing protective clothing such as hats and regularly apply a high-factor SPF cream with UVA and UVB filter protection.

Sunspots can be treated at home with topical prescription creams such as retinoids and mild steroids. For more immediate and effective results, in-clinic CO_2 laser or intense-pulsed-light treatments can help to destroy the cells that make melanin, reducing the spots' colour and severity.

Dr Ross Perry, medical director of Cosmedics skin clinics

Loss of oestrogen in menopause causes further loss of collagen in the skin for women. As we lose collagen naturally over time, age spots will likely occur. Try switching your everyday hand cream to one that includes hyaluronic acid, which helps to boost moisture and fill in wrinkles. Some people may opt for dermal fillers to plump up the skin on the hands, but this is quite a painful treatment that needs to be performed frequently.

Age spots and skin cancer can have similarities — if you're worried, get them checked out. Beware of new or existing moles that have changed colour or texture, or may be itching, crusting or bleeding. Skin cancer or melanoma will often appear as a mole with a jagged border and be more than one colour, likely growing in size.

Dr Jeremy Harris, GP and senior partner at the Private GP Group

The NHS does not generally offer treatments for sunspots because they are deemed cosmetic, but there are a couple of options for help with them. A prescribed cream can be applied, which can reduce their appearance, or they can be frozen off using liquid nitrogen, although this can leave a pink mark on the skin that then needs to be protected while in the sun for it to heal. They can also be curetted, or scraped off, if they are thick.

Yasmin Choudhury



GETTY IMAGES

How people like you are contributing to the cure for cancer

A revolutionary medical study is attempting to crack the secrets of serious diseases. Julia Llewellyn Smith speaks to the volunteers about why they signed up

In 2010 Dr Peter Craig received a letter sent by the Scottish chief medical officer to randomly selected middle-aged people, asking if he was interested in participating in UK Biobank, a revolutionary new research programme aiming to help scientists to understand why some people but not others succumb to diseases such as dementia, heart disease, arthritis and cancer. The aim was to eventually stamp them out.

Craig signed up. Soon afterwards he spent a few hours at a nearby centre answering health questionnaires and submitting urine, blood and saliva samples to join the 15 million that UK Biobank has collected to date (enough to fill 91 bath tubs). Over subsequent years he filled in various online questionnaires about diet and lifestyle.

This year Craig, 61, was invited to be one of Biobank's second wave, making a six-hour round trip to Newcastle for five hours of imaging assessments including a brain MRI scan, a heart and abdomen MRI that measured how his heart pumped blood and how fat was distributed around his organs, and a DEXA scan measuring bone density. Craig became the 50,000th person to be scanned by the world's biggest human imaging project. He also had various measurements taken and completed a lifestyle questionnaire and cognitive function and hearing tests. For a couple of weeks afterwards he had to wear a heart monitor.

Devoting so much unpaid time to this was quite a sacrifice, but the university researcher thinks it's "a nice way of contributing to health research".

Since it was founded 17 years ago, the participation of Biobank's 500,000 volunteers — recruited when aged between 40 and 69 — has led to some vital inroads into understanding our ageing population's health. Since the study began more than 44,000 participants have died, with the main cause of death being heart disease. Thousands of others have suffered from strokes, depression and hip fractures. But the range of data they have supplied has helped researchers to grasp patterns of who was most susceptible to such illnesses and why.

"The amazing thing about Biobank is that it provides lots of images of people, which show their organs and how they're functioning in the context of a huge amount of information on their genetics, their lifestyle, their environment and their clinical history," says Professor Paul Matthews, head of the department of brain sciences and the UK Dementia Research Institute Centre at Imperial College London, and chairman of the UK Biobank Imaging Working Group.

"It means what one can do is relate across these data sets to ask questions. For example, to what extent does genetics predict the size and shape and function of the brain? What factors are associated with increased environment risk and lifestyle risk?"

Dr Naomi Allen, UK Biobank's chief scientist and professor of epidemiology at the Nuffield Department for Population Health, University of Oxford, says that its discoveries are already "having a real impact".

> **Being aware of what your body looks like inside is a real motivator**

UK Biobank's findings are available to any researcher registered with the organisation. So far, this includes 33,000 researchers from 100 countries, who have published more than 6,000 papers on its data. "We build the car, but we let the worldwide research community drive it," she says.

Allen cites a recent study by the University of Exeter that used Biobank's database to show how type 1 (insulin-dependent) diabetes — previously considered a disease most prevalent in children and teenagers, "actually happens at the same rate right up until your thirties and forties". Now GPs are testing people in that age range who present with diabetes symptoms for type 1 as well as type 2.

In cardiology, Biobank data was able to prove that trabeculae, which resemble skin tags on the heart — and which until then, Matthews says, "no one had ever thought very much about" — play a key role in the heart's pumping function, meaning people without them were more at risk of cardiomyopathy, or diseases of the heart muscle. Another vital discovery was that the presence of subcutaneous fat, mostly found in women, puts people at much less risk of heart disease and diabetes than visceral fat that's more common in men, leading to the development of a risk score for complications of diabetes based on the way that the body fat is distributed.

Such revelations are possible owing to UK Biobank's unprecedented scale. So far, it says, the study has collected 30 petabytes of data, more than would fill 15,000 laptops and which, at average household internet speeds, would take about 50 years to download.

UK Biobank's centres in Newcastle upon Tyne, Stockport, Reading and Bristol, where scans take place, are designed to be run as slickly as possible. Jeff Searle, 74, a former educational researcher from Gateshead, Tyneside, who was scanned in Newcastle in 2018 and then again in March recalls the process being very well organised. "I was expected at 2.30pm, immediately did a questionnaire about what medicines I was on, then was on the computers doing the various assessments and answering more questions and then it's the machines. It's a big deal, you have to strip right off, be in a surgical gown just as in hospital, but again there was very little waiting time."

Like all volunteers, Searle was not given any feedback about his health from the scans, although concerns flagged are passed on to the volunteer's GP. "I was happy to do it because I understand the importance of good data," he says.

The average UK Biobank volunteer tends to come from a certain demographic and is more likely to be female and to live in less socioeconomically deprived areas than nonparticipants. They are also less likely to be obese, smoke and drink alcohol on a daily basis.

"With all health studies participants are likely to be a little bit healthier and a little bit wealthier but because Biobank is so large, we still have around 88,000 participants who live in the most deprived areas of the country," Allen says. "[And] as long as you have enough individuals across all levels of the factors that you're interested in — whether it's social deprivation, education, or ethnicity — the associations that you find between an exposure and an outcome are a lot more likely to be generalisable."

And how does UK Biobank persuade participants to be truthful about how much they exercise and what they eat and drink — something that's notoriously hard to monitor? "Because Biobank is a prospective, longitudinal study, it tries as much as possible to get serial, multiple measures on each person, asking them the same questions on different occasions. That helps to achieve greater understanding of what the ground truth really is," Matthews says.

Has he altered his lifestyle as a result of UK Biobank's findings?

"I have! I led one of the alcohol studies, and it was really frightening to learn there was no safe limit for alcohol. It affects our organs at any level, so I certainly decreased my alcohol consumption. It's also made me much more aware of the need to keep physically active. Being aware of what your body looks like inside is a real motivator."

As volunteers grow older and start to develop diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, Matthews is anticipating UK Biobank's third phase. "We're moving — from my standpoint — into the most exciting period, which is being able to see what the determinants of those diseases are." Already, studies have begun on blood proteins to spot potential markers that he hopes can lead to "very low-cost tests to predict late-life diseases".

None of it would be possible without the volunteers' altruism.

"Being involved is a bit of a commitment but most people commit far larger chunks of time to voluntary work with charities and so forth," Craig says. "You do it in the same spirit, for the public good."

It's Love Island for oldies — my daughters wouldn't get me on it

A new dating show matchmakes single parents while their kids watch. No thanks, says Simon Mills

It takes a few episodes before *My Mum, Your Dad* finally gets the response from the kids for which the directors must have been hoping. But it is worth the wait. A dad and a mum are on an organised "date" in the country-house gardens of the *MMYD* HQ, away from the other divorced, separated or widowed middle-aged guests. This requires the two frisky fiftysomethings to start flirting with each other on cue, soon progressing to them feeding one another spoonfuls of food, *Lady and the Tramp*-style. The grown-up children — on banks of sofas and soft furnishings in another location, but hooked up to the billing and cooing via a live feed to a big telly — cannot bear to watch. "Oh God," says a grim-faced daughter to a soundtrack of collective groans. "This. Is… Mortifying."

When another couple start kissing — proper tongues-out snogging actually — two youngsters instinctively grab large cushions and hold them up to their faces to block out a "Nurse! The *screens*!" image that they can never forget.

It's all rather sweet and also quite excruciating, the idea of *My Mum, Your Dad* being that kids aren't really supposed to see their parents doing this stuff — dating, dancing, wining and dining, chatting up, goofing around, flexing, boozing, hot-tub cavorting etc. Why? Because, duh, it is *so* embarrassing.

Here's the setup. Nine contestants — all single and aged between 44 and 58 — appear alongside their adult children (in their twenties and early thirties) who have nominated them for the show in the hope that they will find love. It's a bit "Hallmark channel/*Love Island*", only with fewer bikinis and tattoos, certainly no cameras in the bedrooms and — because the venue is a West Sussex mansion and not a villa in Spain — an indoor pool.

You think it's going to be icky and uncomfortable viewing, but it's actually rather benign and innocent. What is revealed as the show progresses proves to be a snapshot of 21st-century Britain: two generations that share a love of sharing and oversharing. It's TMI as entertainment.

REX FEATURES; GETTY IMAGES





Above, from top: Simon Mills and his daughters, Laurie and Maddie; the cast of My Mum, Your Dad

> **"When I discovered a dating site I told no one. Especially not my children"**

The potential ickiness factor is tempered by the kids and the parents all being children of the internet. Mums and daughters alike do bikini shots for Instagram when on holiday. Dads post pics of their weight-lifting prowess on Facebook. Quite a few of the parents have already tried dating apps. The parents all seem to be "friends" with their really nice kids, who mostly just want mum or dad to "be happy".

Inevitably, as with everything in modern life, *MMYD* is emotionally overengineered. There's a lot of touchy-feely, psycho-babbly talk of people being in certain "spaces" and po-faced pronouncements such as: "If Sharon's not on my dad's level, I worry that he could get hurt." (By the way, Sharon — dressed in a St Trinians outfit, complete with pigtails and straw boater — may well be quite sloshed when she is trying to find Dad's level.)

Meanwhile, Mazey, 21, a student from Bath, says that she nominated her father for the show because she wants to see him "grow", but also to meet someone to "share the same experiences". Paul is 51.

The other contestants include a psychotherapist and a pastoral support officer. Even the presenter — Davina McCall, reliably, professionally overwrought and a divorcee/second-time-arounder herself — claims to have "manifested" the show into existence, describing the cast as "people who have lived a life, been through experiences" and are "culturally at the same place in life". They have got baggage, but they deserve love, she says. One silver fox says that he has a "property and boat business in Ibiza" as though he's reading out his dating profile on the eHarmony site (or pitching on *Dragons' Den*).

However, one can't help but think that the programme makers got to all this 10 or 15 years too late. If they had made *My Mum, Your Dad* in a time before Bumble, Tinder and Hinge — applications that have revolutionised dating for middle-aged divorcees and single parents (I know, because I have been in the midlife-app trenches) — we would be witnessing television of cross-generational-carnage quality: previously unseen, view-through-the-fingers-horror-show stuff between parents and children; not this cosy "journey of discovery", with the kids lying on Loaf armchairs watching their parents make sappy berks of themselves on CCTV while dressed as Jimmy Krankie.

I became single again 10 years ago, after a 20-year marriage. At first I tried to meet the next Mrs Mills via traditional, time-honoured methods — cocktail bars, parties, dinners, dog walks, introductions from kind and concerned friends and supermarket queues. Then I discovered a free dating site full of lovely, bright, keen and intelligent women, and it was rather wonderful.

I did this in total secrecy and told no one, especially not my children. We did talk about my "situation" now and then. Still teenagers at the time, my daughters would tell their friends that they wanted dad to "meet someone". What they really wanted was to not have to worry about me any more; divorced dads, they were finding, are needy and a bit hopeless at looking after themselves. (On *MMYD*, Eliott, 53, a widowed PE teacher and football coach from Essex, is convinced that his son Zachary nominated him for the programme because "he wants rid of me".)

Yes, my children would sometimes hear rumours of a new partner, but I'd never consider an introduction until I was confident that the relationship would go beyond fling status. In two years as a fiftysomething singleton, this happened once. The idea of my kids being in on my romantic activity — watching me on a date-night dinner, spooning sushi into a new girlfriend's face, or formation-dancing to 1990s acid house bangers — would be appalling. For everyone concerned.

My father was the same. After losing his wife in his late sixties he bought a new Jaguar, a motorbike and even a small aircraft, signed up to an "executive" dating agency and started splurging his pension fund on swanky dinners and expensive Caribbean holidays. While he was alive he told me exactly zilch about any of these adventures — I found out about them only when he died and I came across the photos on his desk.

Dad, like me, thought his cloak-and-dagger dating had dignity. His grown-up children didn't need to hear his best lines, watch his old smoothie act play out or walk in on him necking his latest flame on the sofa, as though in some hoary old episode of *Frasier*.

Then again, the first series of *MMYD* does highlight a growing and significant statistic: there are more single and unmarried over-50s in Britain than ever before. In 2002 just 6.1 per cent of the 50-to-64 population of England and Wales were single; by 2017 it had grown to an estimated 12.9 per cent. In other words, the number of randy old people has doubled in 15 years. That doesn't make it easier to be "out there" (™ Nora Ephron). There are plenty of services, specialist sites and dating apps for this older, still perky demographic, but these are often male-skewed. It is worth knowing that only 15 per cent of Tinder users are female.

Back in Sussex, Natalie, a 44-year-old "self-esteem and relationship recovery coach" and self-love podcast guest, is introduced as being on a "journey of discovery for myself" and "learning to love myself" and "understanding what healthy looks like". I'm very happy for Natalie, who — as her son, Kaliel, will no doubt attest — has had a quite a tough life and deserves to find love. Me? I would encourage my daughters to put a pair of cushions over my face if their sad, single dad ever spouted this kind of meaningless guff on the telly.

***My Mum, Your Dad* continues on ITV1 tonight at 9pm**

arts

‘Elton placed his hand on my thigh. It made me laugh’

One of the greatest writing partnerships in pop was forged in a family home in Pinner. Bernie Taupin reveals the crazy period in his life when he shared a bedroom with Elton John

Sheila hated my coat. I can’t say I blame her. It hung on a hook on the back of our bedroom door like a Neanderthal artefact from the Natural History Museum, its only credentials for hipness being that the members of Cream and Pink Floyd wore ones like them.

I’m not sure if theirs stunk the way mine did, but when it rained it smelt like an uncured yak hide. Afghan coats were in style, as were kaftan jackets, three-button tees, and velvet pants. I’m positive we didn’t succumb to the latter, but as for everything else, my new best friend and I did our very utmost to look the part.

Sheila was Reg’s mother. Brassy, busy, and at that time stereotypical of the suburban clerical go-getter. She liked a drink, a knees-up (a party), and a quick chorus of *Down at the Old Bull and Bush*. With her neighbour, a blousy lovely called Mavis, and her delightfully jovial sister, Win, they would sit in the front room listening to James Last albums, laughing raucously and smoking prodigiously. Still she didn’t like my coat. “Bleedin’ smelly ole thing!” she would exclaim repeatedly.

I was wearing my hair long, straight curtains parted in the middle. Reg, channelling John Lennon circa *All You Need Is Love*, was sporting a splendid walrus moustache, untidy brown curls and, in the ultimate tip of the hat to the hippest Beatle, a pair of gold-rimmed granny glasses.

My noxious coat in tow, I’d moved in with Reg: 3A Frome Court, Pinner Road, Middlesex in 1967. Sheila’s job kept her absent during the day so that in the tranquillity of the apartment we could fire up the conveyor belt on our creative engine.

The apartment was situated on the second floor with a small kitchen that led to the hallway, which ran the length of the apartment. Immediately outside the kitchen to the right was a relatively spacious living room that housed Reg’s upright piano. Turning left, the hallway ended with the bathroom at the left, Sheila’s bedroom in the middle and our room next to it on the right.

Sheila was handling things solo until her husband, Reg’s stepfather, Derf (Fred in reverse), came home from working a contracting job in Nigeria. Although Sheila’s personality would morph into something different over time, back in those fledgling days it was on an even keel of encouragement and bawdy affability.

I worked in our bedroom at the back of the apartment, and Reg hammered away in the living room at the front. It was either me heading down the hall with a, “Hey, try this,” or him heading in the opposite direction with a, “Come take a listen.”

It was pretty early on that Reg tested the waters. We were inseparable, joined at the hip, and completely the inhabitants of our own world. So it was only natural that he would add to the confusion that must have been raging in his psyche by placing his hand on my thigh. This was done almost clinically as if he felt it necessary, but at the same time wanting to get it over with.

Elton was still a long way from coming out, and even further from understanding it, the consummation of his chosen path being several years from this point. This innocent approach was done with zero aggression and lacked anything of a predatory nature. If anything, I think it made me laugh. It was easily deflected and immediately understood. Of course, if I had reciprocated, it



> **“Sheila liked a drink, a knees-up, and a quick chorus of Down at the Old Bull and Bush**



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JOHN OLSON/THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION/SHUTTERSTOCK; ALAMY









Main: Sheila and Fred Farebrother with Elton John. Above, from top: Bernie and Elton in 1968; 3A Frome Court; Linda Woodrow

would have spelt disaster. One of the tried-and-true components of our lasting relationship has been those parts of our personalities that have always remained polar opposites. If we'd have been sexually like-minded, it would have undoubtedly, eventually crashed and burnt.

I imagine that perhaps I wasn't altogether convinced initially that gay Reg was a reality. My friend wasn't in the slightest bit camp and was everything that screamed "not gay". A hardcore soccer fan, eclectic musical tastes, tough as old boots, hell, Reg was my very own Ronnie Kray, the gay half of the Kray brothers.

I can only imagine that Reg realised, and was relieved, that what he had wished for was a real friend rather than a temporary lover.

As much as some people might think, we have never been a beast with two heads. Outside of those burgeoning years, we have never lived in each other's pockets or clung to each other's coat-tails. From the moment we made our mark, we severed our umbilical cord and went our own way. Our devotion to each other has never wavered, and our friendship grew substantially just as our lifestyles took radically different paths. Geography may perpetually separate us, but nothing can sever the bond we forged at Frome Court.

It was somewhere around this time that it was suggested that my friend jump ship from jobbing songwriter and become Elton John, erstwhile recording artist, our first stab at notoriety being an appallingly heavy-handed piece of maudlin junk entitled *I've Been Loving You*. I'm happy it tanked. It was to prove a prodigious wake-up call for us that ultimately led to a serious reset. Directly before this took place, though, things got weird. Elton got engaged, and a humungous wrench got thrown in the works.

Sometime during Elton's stint backing Long John Baldry he'd met a young woman called Linda Woodrow. They became friends and Elton had been persuaded to believe that there was more to it than an amicable relationship. At a time when he was still unsure of his own sexual orientation and how to distribute his pent-up love, it was extraordinary to watch him approach a traditional heterosexual dance. I truly don't think he knew what hit him and was just swept up in the accepted normality of it all.

The consequences of all this was that we moved out of Frome Court and into a gloomy basement apartment on Furlong Road in Islington. I was extremely intimidated by Elton's fiancée. Like a big scary bird, she dominated our acreage, ruling with impunity under the guise of benevolent monarch. She reminded me of a skinny Mrs Potato Head with all of her applications exaggerated to comical effect — towering wigs and exaggerated lashes plugged in. I don't think she liked me very much, but then again I can't say I blame her.

Her fixation with cleanliness, while bordering on obsession, came with serious double standards. If she was Lady Tremaine and we were a couple of Cinderellas, then her precious dog was the ugly sisters combined. For while we vacuumed and dusted, her scraggly hound would crap and piss with impunity.

The interesting thing is that I can't recall writing anything at Furlong Road, I don't even know if we had a piano. It just wasn't a creative environment, and emerging from it was like coming up for air, the diminishing returns of what it had to offer harnessing us with all number of questions. Most crippled by these questions was my friend, who was undoubtedly agonising over how to handle his impending wedding vows.

It all changed with an intervention after Elton, in a staged cry for help, opened all the windows, stuck his head in the gas oven, and awaited a dramatic response. Perhaps due to the unorthodox nature of his attempt, gas on low and an embroidered pillow to rest his head on, sympathy was not forthcoming. Obviously not the reaction he craved, I laughed out loud while Linda merely looked down at him, rolled her eyes, and walked out.

The next day, Elton's stepfather arrived early to assist us in abandoning ship while Linda lobbed several threatening bombs.

She was pregnant, would inject air bubbles into her veins, and I'm sure blamed the entire debacle on me. Of course, it was all fabricated as they had never had sex, we weren't junkies, and I was blameless, just sitting on the kerb watching the whole train wreck happen.

Revitalised by our retreat to Frome Court, things started to change for the better in 1969. Derf was back full-time from abroad, making things a little snugger but no less amiable. To this day I'm still indebted to the generosity both Elton's mother and stepfather afforded me back when I was still in my teens.

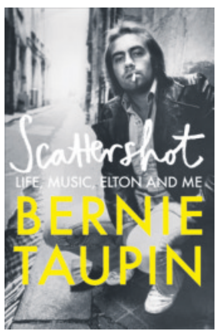
Our room may have been small, but it was orchestrated to our needs. Cheap black spring-loaded metal bunkbeds were pressed against the wall (I occupied the top) where Elton would hang his beads and bangles at night, causing an irritating jingle when you were trying to get a decent night's sleep. There was a "his side" and a "my side", and both sides were incredibly well organised (something we have in common to this day).

Of course, pride of place was given to our albums. Mine were branded with my initials in tiny print on the rear lower right side of the jacket, so as not to confuse mine with his. I recall Elton found this strange in so much as he probably couldn't envision a time when we wouldn't be sharing a room in the suburbs of London.

On Monday morning, October 27, 1969, Sheila fried up a couple of eggs, slotted in some toast and brewed three cups of tea while I wrote something called *Your Song*. I don't think it took me more than ten minutes. It might sound like an oxymoron, but there was a simple complexity to it that completely mirrored my own adolescent turmoil.

In retrospect, what I'm proudest of is the song's honesty. I was seven months shy of my 20th birthday, a virginal crusader, idealistic in my concept of innocence and love. The protagonist in the song is untarnished and unsophisticated. Like ourselves (and I include Elton in this because of his own simple untapped desires), we were uninitiated in sexual deceit and the crueller machinations of seasoned deception. That would all come later, but as for now, this simple ode to a fictional infatuation was the best autobiography I possessed. Without Elton's melody, it never would have flown.

***Scattershot: Life, Music, Elton and Me* by Bernie Taupin (Monoray, £25). To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Free UK standard P&P on online orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members**



Bernie Taupin will be doing a UK book tour in October: scattershotlive.com

times2

Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai medium

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

		7			5								8		5	3				
9	3		6		4									3		1				5
	5		7		9		8	6				5							3	8
			9											1	3	9				2
3	1					2	9					9		4		7			6	
		2						5						6			5		8	
	6		8	7					2						2					
			4	5						7	3						3	2		7
5												2			1	6		3		
						8				4	9	7								
										1										
								5	7	3				1						
		2		3	8			7												2
7		9	2						9	5						5	7			
					6						4					6	2		1	
	6		8			1						8						5		
	7			9		4		8					1	4					9	3
8				6	7	3											1			
5	2							4				7	2		5		9		8	
1				2		7									7		8		3	9
				7	5		2								3			2		

Sudoku fiendish

						3	5	
		5	8		2			4
		3				6		
					6		1	7
		8		9		5		2
	8		6		7			1
	2			1				
		1		2	5	9		

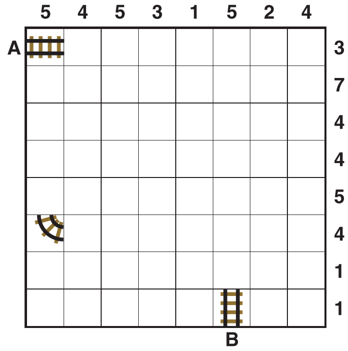
Killer tricky

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

10		23		35	34		27	
14								
	30					17	7	
		15						13
			5			17		
15			17	9			9	
	9					8	24	
		13		21				5
20					8			

Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.



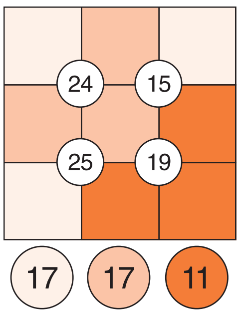
Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

```
[ ]   [ ]   [ ]   [ ]   [ ]
 V
[ ]   [3]   [ ] < [ ] > [ ]
 ^
[ ]   [5]   [ ] > [ ]   [ ]

[ ] > [ ] < [ ]   [3] < [ ]
 ^
[ ]   [ ] < [ ] < [ ]   [ ]
```

Suko



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

3	9	5	5	24	22	■	3	24	15	16	15	12
23	■	4	■	11	■	■	■	11	■	11	■	5
18	20	24	5	16	■	25	11	11	20	11	2	21
15	■	20	■	2	■	6	■	20	■	3	■	11
3	11	15	10	6	4	2	■	5	15	7	5	4
22	■	8	■	■	■	25	■	3	■	■	■	14
■	■	5	26	7	16	15	24	7	11	16	■	■
1	■	■	■	11	■	2	■	■	■	5	■	3
15	16	16	11	19	■	2	21 Y	17	3	20	6	9
17	■	6	■	9	■	5	■	15	■	15	■	15
17	6	3	20	15	6	14 D	■	17	6	26	5	16
5	■	5	■	7	■	■	■	12	■	5	■	3
14	6	4	2	22	21	■	13	11	4 N	14	18	5

A B C ~~D~~ E F G H I J K L M ~~N~~ O P Q R S T U V W X ~~Y~~ Z

1	2	3	4 N	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 D	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Y	22	23	24	25	26

Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

	2	5	6		3
	5	2	4		6
	6	4			5
	4	3	5		

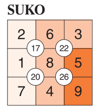
Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

Yesterday's solutions

SAMURAI

9	1	2	4	3	6	8	7	5				7	5	1	4	6	2	8	3	9
4	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	1				4	8	3	9	1	7	6	5	2
8	3	7	2	1	5	6	9	4				9	2	6	5	8	3	1	4	7
7	4	9	5	6	2	3	1	8				6	9	8	3	4	1	2	7	5
6	8	5	3	7	1	9	4	2				5	7	4	8	2	6	3	9	1
1	2	3	9	4	8	7	5	6				1	3	2	7	5	9	4	6	8
3	7	1	6	2	4	5	8	9	6	1	3	2	4	7	1	3	5	9	8	6
5	6	4	8	9	7	1	2	3	9	4	7	8	6	5	2	9	4	7	1	3
2	9	8	1	5	3	4	6	7	2	5	8	3	1	9	6	7	8	5	2	4
						7	9	8	1	3	6	4	5	2						
						2	3	4	8	9	5	6	7	1						
						6	1	5	4	7	2	9	8	3						
1	6	7	8	9	5	3	4	2	7	8	1	5	9	6	3	1	8	7	2	4
9	2	5	1	4	3	8	7	6	5	2	9	1	3	4	7	9	2	6	5	8
4	3	8	6	2	7	9	5	1	3	6	4	7	2	8	4	6	5	3	1	9
6	5	9	3	7	2	4	1	8				9	7	2	5	3	6	4	8	1
3	8	4	5	1	6	7	2	9				8	4	3	9	2	1	5	7	6
2	7	1	4	8	9	5	6	3				6	5	1	8	4	7	9	3	2
7	1	3	2	5	8	6	9	4				2	8	7	6	5	4	1	9	3
5	4	6	9	3	1	2	8	7				4	1	9	2	7	3	8	6	5
8	9	2	7	6	4	1	3	5				3	6	5	1	8	9	2	4	7

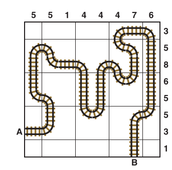
SUKO



MINI SUDOKU

6	5	1	4	2	3
3	2	4	5	1	6
4	1	5	3	6	2
2	6	3	1	5	4
1	3	2	6	4	5
5	4	6	2	3	1

TRAIN TRACKS



FUTOSHIKI

```
[3]   [2]   [5]   [4]   [1]

[4]   [3]   [1] < [2]   [5]
       ^
[5] > [4]   [2] > [1]   [3]
                         V
[1]   [5] > [4]   [3]   [2]
                   ^
[2]   [1]   [3]   [5]   [4]
```

SUDOKU

7	4	8	1	5	9	6	3	2
6	9	5	3	2	4	7	1	8
3	2	1	7	6	8	4	5	9
9	6	3	2	7	1	5	8	4
5	1	4	8	9	3	2	7	6
2	8	7	6	4	5	3	9	1
1	5	9	4	3	6	8	2	7
4	3	2	9	8	7	1	6	5
8	7	6	5	1	2	9	4	3

KILLER

4	2	8	6	3	7	1	5	9
3	5	9	2	4	1	6	7	8
7	1	6	5	8	9	3	2	4
1	3	2	4	9	5	8	6	7
9	7	5	8	6	2	4	1	3
8	6	4	1	7	3	5	9	2
6	8	1	9	2	4	7	3	5
2	4	3	7	5	6	9	8	1
5	9	7	3	1	8	2	4	6

CODEWORD

A	L	M	A	N	A	C	■	T	Y	P	E	D
G	■	I	■	I	■	A	S	H	■	R	■	A
A	R	S	E	N	A	L	■	O	P	I	U	M
I	■	H	■	E	■	M	A	R	■	Z	■	A
N	E	A	T	■	S	■	■	A	P	E	■	G
■	■	P	O	S	T	B	O	X	■	D	O	E
A	■	■	W	■	I	■	U	■	J	■	■	D
B	R	A	■	B	R	U	S	Q	U	E	■	■
S	■	F	U	R	■	■	T	■	G	L	U	M
C	■	F	■	A	N	D	■	K	■	D	■	E
O	C	E	A	N	■	E	V	I	D	E	N	T
N	■	C	■	C	U	E	■	L	■	S	■	E
D	I	T	C	H	■	D	E	L	E	T	E	D

Count me in for this tasty Brexit bitch-fest

Carol Midgley
TV review



Laura Kuenssberg: State of Chaos
BBC2
★★★★☆

My Mum, Your Dad
ITV1
★★☆☆☆

The years of melodrama and chaos inflicted on this country by certain Conservatives since the Brexit referendum may not be something you care to revisit. It may feel like returning to a rotten kebab with a 7am hangover. But I must be a masochist because **Laura Kuenssberg: State of Chaos** sucked me in from the outset with the promise of a political bitch-fest. Yes, always up for that. Kuenssberg has spent months speaking to "insiders" who have "never spoken publicly" before, which is tasty.

Boris Johnson's special adviser Ben Gascoigne said that Johnson never for a moment looked jubilant over Brexit. Fiona Hill, Theresa May's joint chief of staff, said that she had been "thrown under the bus". Simon McDonald, the former Foreign Office chief, admitted he told colleagues that he voted remain, which goes against civil servants' impartiality.

Steve Baker, the former chairman of the European Research Group (the influential caucus of eurosceptic Tory MPs), seemed to enjoy Kuenssberg's camera very much, painting himself as a chaos-maker, planting stories, waging war on his own government, procuring resignations. "I have been a systematic plotter who has tried to remove the prime minister and eventually succeeded," he said, adding that it would be "bashful" to pretend otherwise. Whoever said Westminster was a snake pit?

My Mum, Your Dad is depressingly billed as the "middle-aged *Love Island*" (they could have had my title, Lumbago Island, if they'd only asked). But at least it can't be as bad as the yawning chasm of narcissistic giblets that is *Love Island*. Can it? Well. They weren't in G-string bikinis discussing favourite sexual positions from day one, so that's a bonus. They were nice people, mostly in their fifties, some bruised by life and probably too knackered for silly mind games. But it is a decent idea spoilt by the inanity of its delivery. It should make a point of being the antithesis of *Love Island*, and in some ways it is: there are no bedroom cameras, so there should be no wobbly love-handles sex.

However, it drainingly apes some of *Love Island*'s lamer gimmicks: booming music, slow-motion walk-ins, extra housemates sent in to stir up tension. These single parents' adult children watch them from a "surveillance bunker" and decide who they should date. The utter horror. If I ever "dated" again I'd sooner eat my own liver than have my children spying on my pitiful attempts at flirting. We heard too much from the "kids". They infantilised the parents to be cooed over by their progeny, caring though they were.

The saving grace was the contestants and their endearing vulnerability. They gave it a heart that *Love Island* lacks. Best and most sympathetic was handsome Roger, 58, whose wife had died from cancer about 18 months ago. His daughter didn't want him to be lonely. Roger was lovely. Caroline, 51, who gave him the glad eye from minute one, was also lovely. But it just seems like he might not be ready yet. I wish him well. I even think this show could be a success. It's just not my cup of tea.

STUART POWELL



Laura Kuenssberg spent months talking to Brexit "insiders"

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



The Documentary
World Service, 9.30am

Today's edition, entitled *Izabela in the Forest*, transports listeners to Europe's last primeval forest, Bialoweiza in Poland. It is an immersive experience rich in birdsong and animal sounds, including that of the rare European bison, recorded by Izabela Dluzyk, *above*, a Polish field recordist who has been blind from birth. She has developed a special sensitivity to birdsong ever since being given a tape recorder by her family at the age of 12 and at once turning its microphone towards the sky. She identifies species entirely through hearing, where she has an extraordinarily detailed depth of field.

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television & radio

Viewing Guide
Ben Dowell

Benjamin, Joshua and the Crown Shyness
BBC4, 10pm

Top pick

The first thing that strikes you about Benjamin and Joshua Israel, the Jewish-Italian twins who star in this warm and mesmerising film, is their shock of hair and 1980s-inspired look of hip-hop tracksuits. Both possess extraordinary charisma, lust for life and a profound affection for each other. And they both have a learning disability. But that doesn't stop them as we follow their 20th year in Valentina Bertani's film, where the access is so intimate you sometimes wonder if this is fiction, not a documentary. Neither man has much of a filter, but they do have a love for music, with an early sequence finding them discussing their ambitions. This involves playing with Beethoven (unlikely) and hearing the band Muse (more possible), but it's a moment typical of the seductive charm of a pair who feel that anything is possible. One of their more delicate goals is having sex with women, with Josh more direct in his approach and Benjamin having a more romantic sensibility, setting his heart on a young woman in his peer group. As the year progresses, their lives change in surprising ways but their bond is unbreakable, making full sense of the unusual title, which derives from a technical term in forestry where the tops of trees form a unified canopy but don't touch each other. These two, it seems, need to learn to grow together and apart.

Only Murders in the Building
Disney+

Our podcasters continue their search for the killer of the Hollywood star Ben Glenroy. Today's episode is a treat, as we enjoy the company of a guest star: Matthew Broderick. Just as Meryl Streep has been game enough to take the joke of her character, Loretta Durkin, being an unsuccessful performer who cannot nail an accent, Broderick proves that he too is up for a laugh. Tonight there are lots of Ferris Bueller jokes and this Broderick is essentially a huge pain to work with, as Oliver (Martin Short) quickly discovers.

Early

BBC1
6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Critical Incident. Two paramedics are stabbed in Wolverhampton (r) **10.45** Expert Witness. A look at how ballistics and handwriting forensics have helped investigations (r) (AD) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Bournemouth, Maidstone and Reading **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Charles Hanson and David Harper help teams in Peterborough (r) (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Daniel and Zara's relationship teeters (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. Items being rejuvenated include some old skis and a wooden blanket box (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Denise Nurse is in Norfolk with a buyer who wants to move closer to her family, and who has her son in tow for support **3.45** Garden Rescue. Charlie and Chris are in Gloucester to create a low maintenance, Scandinavian-inspired garden for a couple's first home together **4.30** The Finish Line. Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene host the quiz in which five contestants race in moving podiums across the studio floor to try and win £5,000 **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2
6.30am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.15** Garden Rescue (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Expert Witness (r) (SL) **8.30** Robson Green's Weekend Escapes (r) (AD, SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** The Super League Show. Tanya Arnold introduces action from the latest matches, including St Helens v Leigh Leopards, Leeds Rhinos v Wigan Warriors and Wakefield Trinity v Catalans Dragons (r) **1.45** Impossible (r) **2.30** Eggheads (r) **3.00** The Wonder of Animals. The complex communication skills of the dolphin (r) (AD) **3.30** Great British Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo picks up his rail journey from Warwick to Rye (r) (AD) **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are? Ruth Jones traces her family tree, learning that her paternal grandfather was a leading figure in the Medical Aid Societies of South Wales (r) (AD) **5.00** Flog It! Paul Martin presents from Capesthorne Hall in Cheshire as visitors arrive with their family heirlooms and the experts pick out the best items to go to auction (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Babatunde Aleshe, Richie Anderson, Jo Caulfield and Carol Smillie (r) **6.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden. The chef visits a local organic chicken farmer to adopt two more hens

ITV1
6.00am Good Morning Britain. Featuring a lively mix of news and current affairs, plus health, entertainment and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and celebrity gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. More interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. James is introduced to torrijas in Castile and Leon and visits a cattle farm producing steak, whilst also cooking dishes including roast sea bass (AD) **3.00** Tenable. Quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis. A team of five university friends take on a series of Top 10 list questions **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4
6.05am Countdown. With Rick Edwards in Dictionary Corner (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Château DIY (r) (AD) **10.55** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. A Yorkshire couple plan to convert a German fire engine into a cabin on wheels (r) (AD) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch. Weekday magazine show hosted by Steph McGovern **2.10pm** Countdown. With Justin Moorhouse in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Laura Hamilton lines up five options on the island of Crete for a couple who feel the time is right to find their perfect holiday home in the Greek sunshine (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Finding an open-plan property in the coastal town of Lagos on Portugal's Algarve **5.00** Four in a Bed. A mother and daughter are second to host at Stable Oak Cottages in Maidstone, Kent, where they are confident their self-catering accommodation will be a hit (r) **5.30** Come Dine with Me. A supporting actor brings an international flavour to his dinner party in Essex, inspired by his Punjabi and Kenyan heritage. He also reveals he has an unusual hidden talent (r) (AD) **6.00** Channel 4 News

Channel 5
6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories **12.40pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions and views on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Tane reassures a skittish Felicity that no one has posted the incriminating video, but then another text from the blackmailer arrives (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Twisted House Sitter (12, TVM, 2021)** A destitute woman crosses paths with a beautiful, affluent, entrepreneur, and decides to take over her life. Thriller starring Crystal-Lee Naomi **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Jojo hopes to make a sale as she shows a British couple around three caravans, and in Torremolinos, owners prepare to open their pool bar **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Susan Calman's Grand Day Out. Susan discovers some of the most beautiful parts of Northern Ireland's coastline, beginning in Belfast and heading to the Antrim coast, before moving inland to Lough Neagh (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

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Evening (7PM – Late)

BBC1
7.00 The One Show Presented by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas

7.30 EastEnders Chelsea faces a big life change, Phil tries to make amends with Kat, while Ben is furious to hear about Emma's return (AD)

8.00 Living Next Door to Putin Katya Adler travels along the Russian border to investigate the consequences of Putin's war on the west and how life is changing for the people living there. *See Viewing Guide* (1/2) (AD)

9.00 The Following Events Are Based on a Pack of Lies Alice discovers new evidence in her case against Rob which, unbeknownst to her, forces Rob's hand. Cheryl is driven into a rash decision which will have life-long implications. Elsewhere, Alice frantically searches for Kelly, who is missing (3/5) (AD)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather

10.40 Ellie Simmonds: A World Without Dwarfism? Ellie investigates the debate over a drug promising to make children with Achondroplasia grow closer to average height, and the repercussions of a treatment that could end dwarfism (r) (AD)

11.40 Boot Dreams: Now or Never Anton Ferdinand teaches how to psych out opponents as the squad prepare to face their first full men's team. Locker room banter boils over. George talks to Roman about his stress (4/6) (r) (AD)

12.45am-6.00 BBC News

BBC2
7.00 Coastal Defenders A mooring point known as a dolphin has brought the Isle of Wight ferries to a standstill and the dive team must work day and night to repair the sea-worn structure (AD)

8.00 This Farming Life The MacDonalds walk their 150 pregnant Highland cattle from the mainland of North Uist to the tidal island of Vallay. In the Cairngorms National Park, Jenni is planning for the year ahead with her alpaca-trekking business (3/12)

9.00 Ultimate Wedding Planner The final two planners face the ultimate challenge as they go head to head to pull off a wedding from scratch in just three days. Last in the series (AD)

10.00 Henpocalypse! Zara finds herself in emotional turmoil over Gary on the eve of their wedding day (5/6) (AD)

10.30 Newsnight The day's important national and international news stories presented by Victoria Derbyshire

11.15 Women's ODI Cricket Highlights of England v Sri Lanka

11.45 The Two Faces of January (12, 2014) A conman tries to scam a couple in Greece. Thriller with Kirsten Dunst, Viggo Mortensen and Oscar Isaac

1.15am Sign Zone: Money for Nothing JJ Chalmers enlists the help of Joel Poole to repurpose some rusty saws (r) (SL) **2.00** Celebrity MasterChef. The chefs create a theatrical showstopping dish to decide who will make it to the final three and face the Chef's Table hosted by Robin Gill (r) (AD, SL) **3.00-3.45** Garden Rescue (r) (SL)

ITV1
7.30 Emmerdale Amelia settles in living with Chas, while Cain asks if Caleb would like to get out of town (AD)

8.00 Love Your Garden Alan Titchmarsh and the team head to the town of Hinckley to surprise a 96-year-old Second World War veteran with a stunning garden transformation. Alan sets about bringing a classic beautiful English country garden to this inaccessible space (AD)

9.00 My Mum, Your Dad Davina heads into the retreat to see how the grown-ups are getting on, and some of the parents open up to her about their past relationships (2/10) (AD)

10.00 ITV News at Ten

10.30 Regional News

10.45 Casino Royale (PG, 1967) Ageing spy James Bond comes out of retirement to tackle a mysterious mastermind who wants to take over the world. Meanwhile, another agent disguises himself as Bond to face the evil genius over the baccarat table. Spoof spy adventure starring David Niven, Peter Sellers, Woody Allen, Orson Welles, Deborah Kerr, Daliah Lavi and Ursula Andress (AD)

1.00am My Mum, Your Dad Davina heads into the retreat to see how the grown-ups are getting on, and some of the parents open up to her about their past relationships (r) (AD) **1.50** Starstruck (r) **2.55** Tenable. Quiz show (r) (SL) **3.45** Unwind with ITV **5.00-6.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure (r) (AD, SL)

Channel 4
7.00 Live International Football: Scotland v England (Kick-off **7.45**). All the action from the 150th Anniversary Heritage Match at Hampden Park. This is football's oldest international rivalry and the sides last met in the group stage of Euro 2020, when they drew 0-0. Scotland were perhaps the happier side on the night given England had home advantage at Wembley Stadium, but it was Gareth Southgate's men who went on to progress from the group and reach the final. Jules Breach presents, with analysis from Joe Cole, Jill Scott and Graeme Souness. *See Viewing Guide*

10.20 Alone USA Isolated and equipped with limited resources, ten lone survivalist experts endure the harsh conditions of the wilderness and its inhabitants. The last one standing wins a life-changing sum of money

11.20 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week with cameras capturing their instant reactions (r) (AD, SL)

12.20am Football Highlights Scotland v England. Action from the 150th Anniversary Heritage Match **1.15** Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back (r) (AD, SL) **2.05** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **3.00** Screw (r) (AD, SL) **3.55** Undercover Boss USA (r) **4.45** Location, Location, Location (r) (SL) **5.40-6.05** Beat the Chef (r)

Channel 5
7.00 IKEA: How Do They Really Do It? Industry insiders, retail experts and former employees lift the lid on the world's biggest furniture seller, divulging the secrets of the massive maze-like warehouse shops (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 The Yorkshire Vet David Melleney and Rohin Aojula team up to try to save a cow and her unborn calf, and Julian Norton is shocked to find a ping pong ball-sized lump inside a shar-pei cross's mouth. Meanwhile, Peter Wright embarks on a three day, 170-mile charity bike ride

9.00 The Great Flood of '07 Between May and July 2007, Great Britain was pounded by more rain than any other summer on record. Entire counties were deluged with a month's rainfall in just a few hours, creating catastrophic floods. The rescue efforts were deemed the biggest in peacetime Britain, and the unprecedented floods prompted Acts of Parliament to better protect our country's infrastructure

10.30 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders A PC is part of a operation to catch a vehicle being driven with cloned number plates. In Cheshire, an inspector is called to a crash between two cars and arrives to find one of the injured drivers has walked away from the scene (6/10) (r)

11.30 Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law Following shopping centre security teams who are locked in a battle to catch criminals (r)

12.25am Traffic Cops Pursuing a car suspected of being cloned (r) **1.20** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.20** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (r) **4.10** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink (r) (SL) **4.55** Nick's Quest (r) (SL) **5.20** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.45** Entertainment News on 5 **5.50-6.00** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL)

television & radio

Live Football
Channel 4, 7pm

England v Scotland football matches have tended to involve high emotions, not least in 1977, when a Scottish win led to a pitch invasion by jubilant away supporters and the sight of men in flares sitting on a Wembley crossbar. Now the Auld Enemies meet in a "friendly" at Hampden Park in Glasgow to celebrate more than 150 years since football's first international in 1872. That ended in a goalless draw, which was the same scoreline when the teams last met, at the Euros in 2021. Jules Breach presents, with analysis from Joe Cole, Jill Scott and Graeme Souness.

Living Next Door to Putin
BBC1, 8pm

The sight of the BBC reporter Katya Adler boarding a Nato plane and watching as paratroopers from Germany, Italy and the US engage in a training exercise is a reminder of how serious the situation in Europe is. If Nato stood by following Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine, now the alliance wants to show that it will stand up to Vladimir Putin's aggression. Adler travels from Poland, north through the Baltic states and discovers a region where the war in Ukraine has reopened old wounds from the Soviet era.

Piers Morgan Uncensored
TalkTV, 8pm

Luis Rubiales, the head of the Spanish Football Federation embroiled in controversy after kissing the Women's World Cup winner Jenni Hermoso, reveals his decision to step down in an exclusive interview with Piers Morgan. The TalkTV man has a knack for getting big sit-downs and in tonight's chat Rubiales explains that he reached his decision after speaking to his father and daughters. "I spoke with them — they know it's not a question about me," he tells Morgan, adding that friends advised him to "focus on your dignity" and protect the sport that he loves.

Film Host
BBC3, 11.25pm

Six friends gather for an online seance that misfires when a spirit is summoned from the underworld. The key here is the chemistry between the six relative unknowns, who banter and bicker with enough credibility to give the jumps some impact. (15, 2020)

Sky Max
6.00am Supergirl (r) **7.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **8.00** The Flash (r) **9.00** Stargate Atlantis (r) **11.00** Supergirl (r) **12.00** The Flash (r) **1.00pm** NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **6.00** Stargate Atlantis (r) **7.00** Stargate Atlantis. Sheppard and the team must persuade a village to evacuate (r) **8.00** The Ultimate Romcom Movies. With Clara Amfo, Ellie Taylor and Russell Kane (r) **9.00** A Discovery of Witches. Chris says he needs more samples from Matthew's family in order to fully research blood rage (r) (AD) **10.00 FILM: Homefront (15, 2013)** Crime thriller starring Jason Statham **12.00** An Idiot Abroad. Karl Pilkington reflects on his travels (r) (AD) **1.00am** The Blacklist (r) **2.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With Stefflon Don, Jake Shears and Jamie-Lee O'Donnell **2.45** Road Wars (r) **3.15** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.05** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r) (AD)

Sky Atlantic
6.00am The Guest Wing (r) (AD) **7.55** The Leftovers (r) (AD) **10.05** Ray Donovan (r) **12.05pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.10** This England (r) (AD) **3.35** The Leftovers (r) (AD) **5.50** Ray Donovan. Double bill (r) (AD) **7.55** Game of Thrones. Cersei and Tywin plot their next move after Tommen's coronation, and Jon and his men attack the mutineers (r) (AD) **9.00** The Lovers. A Belfast supermarket worker begins a relationship with a political broadcaster. Comedy drama with Johnny Flynn (1/6) (r) (AD) **9.40** Billions. Prince clashes with his employees, while Sacker confronts a figure from her past who poses a threat to her future (5/12) (r) **10.45** The Gilded Age. As Ada and Aurora rush to stop Marian from making a huge decision, Bertha and Mrs Astor's clash impacts all of New York society (9/9) (r) (AD) **11.55** Drift — Partners in Crime. Ali hides with Frida in the Alps (5/10) (r) **12.55am** Domina (r) (AD) **2.00** Domina. New series **4.10** The Guest Wing (r) (AD)

Sky Documentaries
6.00am The 2000s (r) **7.00** Discovering: Gary Oldman (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** Kingdom of Dreams (r) (AD) **9.55** The Vietnam War (r) **11.00** 100 Foot Wave (r) (AD) **12.00** Costa Concordia: Chronicle Of A Disaster (r) **2.00pm FILM: The Fog of War (PG, 2003)** Documentary about former US Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Gary Oldman (r) **6.00** Kingdom of Dreams (r) (AD) **6.55** The Vietnam War (r) **8.00** 100 Foot Wave (1/6) (r) (AD) **9.00** Chernobyl: The Lost Tapes. Newly discovered archive footage and witness accounts of the 1986 nuclear disaster (r) (AD) **11.00** Music Box. The story of the music festival Woodstock, 1999 (1/6) (r) (AD) **1.10am FILM: Val (12, 2021)** An intimate portrait of the actor Val Kilmer (AD) **3.10 FILM: The Kingmaker (15, 2019)** An insight into the life and career of Filipino politician Imelda Marcos **5.05** Discovering: Gary Oldman (r)

Sky Arts
6.00am Son of Cornwall **8.00** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Helen Mirren **12.00** The Joy of Painting **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Inside Art: Bristol Street Art at M Shed (AD) **3.00** The Art of Architecture **4.00** Discovering: Vanessa Redgrave **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.00** The Joy of Painting. Mountain peaks **7.30** The Joy of Painting. A view of polar beauty **8.00** Discovering Westerns on Film. The origins and evolution of the movie genre **9.30** Comedy Legends. A tribute to Steve Martin **10.30** Discovering: The Monkees **11.00** The Lot of Fun: Where the Movies Learned to Laugh. Documentary **12.00** Dr Jack and Mr Nicholson (AD) **1.00am** Soundtracks: Songs That Defined History **1.50** Discovering: U2 **2.20** Berlin Live Simple Minds **3.40** Simple Minds: Music Icons **4.10** A Play in a Day **5.10** The South Bank Show Originals

Sky Main Event
6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **8.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **9.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Sky Sports News **12.00** Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England v Sri Lanka. Coverage of the second ODI in the three-match series at The County Ground, Northampton. England's Nat Sciver-Brunt will be looking to continue her fine form in the one-day format, having scored two successive centuries against Australia in the previous ODI series as part of the Ashes back in July. Her score of 129 in the last game of that series helped England to a 69-run win **8.30pm** Sky Sports News **9.00** Sky Sports News **10.00** Sky Sports News at Ten **10.30** Back Pages Tonight **11.00** Sky Sports News **12.00** Sky Sports News **1.00am** Sky Sports News **2.00** Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news **3.00** Sky Sports News **4.00** Sky Sports News **5.00** Sky Sports News

Variations
BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: **10.40pm** Golf: Irish Open Highlights. Action from the K Club **11.25** Ellie Simmonds: A World Without Dwarfism? (r) (AD) **12.25am** Boot Dreams: Now or Never (r) (AD) **1.25-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: **12.15pm-1.00** Bargain Hunt. From Builth Wells in Wales (r) (AD)

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: **10.00pm-10.30** Jailed: Inside Maghaberry Prison (r)

BBC2 Wales
As BBC2 except: **1.45pm** First Minister's Questions **2.45** Impossible (r) **3.30** Eggheads (r) **4.00** The Wonder of Animals (r) (AD) **4.30-5.00** Great British Railway Journeys (r)

ITV1 Wales
As ITV1 except: **8.00pm** Welsh Lives. Following the story of Wales' first world champion surfer, Llywelyn Williams **8.30-9.00** Fishlock's Choice. Trevor Fishlock discovers a bell and cannon relating to a shipwreck (r) **10.45** Face to Face. Adrian Masters is joined by Kevin Brennan **11.15** FILM: Casino Royale (1967) Spoof James Bond adventure with David Niven (AD) **1.25am-1.50** Wales on TV (r)

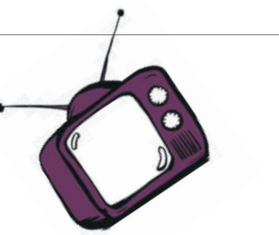
STV
As ITV1 except: **10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport. Storm Eunice wreaks havoc at Heathrow airport (r) (AD) **12.05am-1.00** Long Lost Family (r) (AD) **3.45-5.00** Night Vision

UTV
As ITV1 except: **8.00pm** Mahon's Way **8.30-9.00** Being James Martin. A look at the success of Belfast-born actor James Martin

BBC Scotland
7.00pm Beechgrove Garden. Kirsty Wilson shows how to take cuttings from hydrangeas (r) **7.30** Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers (r) **8.00** Island Crossings (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Rise of the Clans (r) **11.00-12.00** David Wilson's Crime Files (r) (AD)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** AH-AH/No-No (r) **5.10** Lon le Linda (r) **5.25** Oscar & Ealasaid (r) **5.40** Shane an Chef (r) **5.53** 'S E Iasg a Th'Annam (I'm a Fish) (r) **5.55** Stòiridh **6.00** An Saoghal Droil aig Pol Ploc/The Rubbish World of Dave Spud (r) **6.15** Triuir aig Tri (r) **6.35** A' Chuil (r) **6.40** Proiseact Ploigh (r) **7.00** Clann a' Chogaidh Mhoir (Small Hands in a Big War) (r) **7.25** Dàn (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là **8.30** Fuine (Home Baking) (r) **9.00** Cold War Hockey (r) **10.00** Trusadh (Compelling Stories) (r) **11.00** Machair (r) **11.25** Fraochy Bay (r) **11.30** Alleluia! (Spiritual Music & Verse) (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Olobobs (r) **6.05** Gwdihw (r) **6.20** Pablo (r) **6.35** Odo (r) **6.45** Ahoi! (r) **7.00** Sblij a Sbloj (r) **7.10** Sam Tân (r) **7.20** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **7.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **7.45** Awyr Iach (r) **8.00** Cywion Bach (r) **8.05** Halibalw (r) **8.15** Bing (r) **8.25** Guto Gwningen (r) **8.40** Llan-ar-goll-en (r) **8.55** Og y Draenog Hapus (r) **9.05** Stiw (r) **9.15** Yr Ysgol (r) **9.30** Sion y Chef (r) **9.45** Sbarc (r) **10.00** Olobobs (r) **10.05** Gwdihw (r) **10.20** Pablo (r) **10.35** Odo (r) **10.45** Ahoi! (r) **11.00** Sblij a Sbloj (r) **11.10** Sam Tân (r) **11.20** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **11.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **11.45** Awyr Iach (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Yn y Fan a'r Lle (r) (AD) **12.30** Heno Aur (r) **1.00** Bwyd Epic Chris (r) **1.30** Ralio+ (r) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News; Weather **3.05** Fairbourne: Y Mor Wrth y Drws (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Olobobs (r) **4.05** Sam Tân (r) **4.15** Pablo (r) **4.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **4.45** Ahoi! (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Siwrne Ni (r) **5.05** Cath-Od (r) **5.20** Gwrach y Rhibyn (r) (AD) **5.40** Boom! (r) **5.55** Larfa (r) **6.00** Pysgod i Bawb (r) **6.30** Sgorio **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Pobol y Cwm (AD) **8.25** Rownd a Rownd (AD) **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Mike Phillips: Croeso i Dubai **10.00** Seiclo: Vuelta a España. Action from stage 16 **10.30-12.15am** Troseddau'r Baltig





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Know your times

TalkTV
6.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show. All the stories you need to know to start your day **9.30** Mike and Kev. Mike Graham and Kevin O'Sullivan give their unique take on the front pages and the latest news **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host looks through the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Monologues and debates **3.00** Kevin O'Sullivan. The host tackles the big stories of the day **5.00** Vanessa Feltz. Big names, interviews, and viewers' thoughts on what has got the nation talking **7.00** Jeremy Kyle Live. The straight-talking host takes on the issues that really matter **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. His verdict on the day's global events. *See Viewing Guide* **9.00** The Talk. A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about **10.00** First Edition. An energetic look at tomorrow's newspapers **11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **12.00** Petrie Hosken. Bringing the latest news stories overnight **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle Live **2.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max

BBC4
7.00pm Secret Life of Farm Animals. Following a litter of piglets from birth. The animals' intelligence is demonstrated, and it is shown the species can be masters at the art of deception **8.00** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael reaches the terminus of the West Highland Line at Mallaig, from where he follows in the footsteps of Bonnie Prince Charlie, to Skye (AD) **8.30** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em. The job centre's new manager embarks on a quest to find Frank a job suited to his talents, despite the staff's long experience of failure **9.00** Yes Minister. Hacker is kept in the dark **9.30** The Thick of It. The media suggests Nicola as a potential leadership candidate (AD) **10.00** Benjamin, Joshua and the Crown Shyness: Storyville. Documentary about a pair of Israeli twins with boundless energy and a learning disability as they struggle with young adulthood and their lack of prospects. *See Viewing Guide* **11.35** The Violence Paradox. Evidence the world is becoming more peaceful (2/2) **12.30am** Parkinson **1.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys (AD) **2.00** Invasion! with Sam Willis **3.00-4.00** Secret Life of Farm Animals

Talking Pictures
6.00am FILM: Landslide (PG, 1937) (b/w) **7.15** Sherlock Holmes (b/w) **7.50 FILM: Demobbed (U, 1944)** (b/w) **9.40 FILM: Born Of The Sea (U, 1949)** (b/w) **10.40 FILM: Bulldog Drummond's Revenge (U, 1937)** (b/w) **11.45 FILM: She'll Have to Go (U, 1962)** (b/w) **1.30pm FILM: Valley of the Dragons (PG, 1961)** (b/w) **3.10 FILM: Kings Go Forth (PG, 1958)** (b/w) **5.25** Fireball XL-5 (b/w) **6.00** Colonel March of Scotland Yard (b/w) **6.30** Scotland Yard **7.05** The Four Just Men (b/w) **7.40** Dick Barton — Special Agent **7.55** Look at Life. A day in a policeman's life **8.05** The Human Jungle (b/w) **9.05** Maigret. A rich entrepreneur is stabbed **10.55** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **11.00 FILM: The Plague of the Zombies (15, 1966) 12.45am** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **12.50 FILM: The Flesh and Blood Show (15, 1972) 2.45** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **2.50 FILM: The Wasp Woman (PG, 1960)** (b/w) **4.20** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **4.25** Night Story (b/w) **5.00** Stagecoach West (b/w)

Film4
11.00am The Last Hurrah (U, 1958) Political drama starring Spencer Tracy (b/w) **1.25pm The Yellow Balloon (PG, 1953)** Crime drama starring Andrew Ray (b/w) (AD) **3.05 Red Mountain (PG, 1951)** Western starring Alan Ladd (AD) **4.45 True Grit (PG, 1969)** Western starring John Wayne and Kim Darby (AD) **7.20 Table 19 (12, 2017)** Dumped by the best man via text, a former maid of honour decides to pitch up at her friend's wedding anyway. Comedy starring Anna Kendrick (AD) **9.00 Lion (PG, 2016)** An Indian man adopted by an Australian couple as a youngster attempts to find his biological family. Biopic starring Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman and Rooney Mara (AD) **11.20 Hancock (12, 2008)** A PR executive decides to transform the image of a drunken superhero whose careless crime-fighting often does more harm than good. Comedy starring Will Smith, Jason Bateman and Charlize Theron (AD) **1.05am-3.15 Ping Pong (PG, 1986)** When London restaurateur Sam Wong dies in a telephone booth, law clerk Elaine Choi is tasked with executing his will. Comedy mystery starring David Yip and Lucy Sheen (AD)

More4
8.55am Kirstie's Vintage Gems **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **2.10** Four in a Bed **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (AD) **5.50** The Secret Life of the Zoo. Two of the young Asian elephants fall ill (AD) **6.55** The Dog House. A family encounters two hounds that cannot be separated (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud returns to Devon to meet Kevin McCabe, a man who wanted to build one of the biggest houses the programme has ever seen (7/7) (AD) **9.00** 24 Hours in A&E. A heart attack victim undergoes an emergency procedure (AD) **10.00** Rescue: Extreme Medics. Medics in Glasgow rush to the scene of a farmer who has suffered a serious head injury, after falling through the roof of a barn (3/5) (AD) **11.05** The Emergency Ward. Dr Emma's patient could lose her fingers, and a gunshot victim has Dr Michael on high alert (AD) **12.05am** 24 Hours in A&E. A rail worker is airlifted in after being hit by a high-speed train (AD) **1.10** 999: On the Front Line **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.50** A Place in the Sun

ITV2
6.00am CITV **9.00** One Tree Hill **10.00** Dawson's Creek **11.00** Love Bites (AD, SL) **12.00** Dinner Date (AD) **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dinner Date (AD) **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase (AD) **7.00** Family Fortunes. Gino D'Acampo hosts as the Karunwis go up against the Keelers **8.00** Superstore. Jonah struggles at Amy's daughter's quinceanera celebration (AD) **8.30** Superstore. Jonah's plans to spearhead a green initiative are met with apathy (AD) **9.00** Gordon, Gino and Fred: American Road Trip. Gordon Ramsay, Gino D'Acampo and Fred Sirieix tour Mexico in search of the best breakfast (AD) **10.15** Plebs. The boys are evicted (AD) **10.45** Plebs. Darius is getting married (AD) **11.15** Family Guy. Brian wins tickets (AD) **11.45** Family Guy. Lois must find a job (AD) **12.15am** American Dad! (AD) **1.15** Superstore (AD) **2.05** Celebrity Karaoke Club **2.55** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **5.00** The Epic Tales of Captain Underpants (AD) **5.25** Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated **5.45** Craig of the Creek

ITV3
6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** On the Buses **9.15** Where the Heart Is (AD) **11.35** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.45** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.55** Endeavour (AD) **5.55** Heartbeat. Mysterious attackers target a beauty queen ahead of a contest (AD) **6.55** Heartbeat. Walker is taken hostage (AD) **8.00** Midsomer Murders2016 Christmas special of the detective drama. A man is murdered ahead of the reopening of a village that has stood abandoned since the Second World War. Hugh Dennis guest stars (AD) **10.00** Trigger Point. A far-right group claims responsibility for the mosque attack in revenge for the Westhaven bombing, while Lana finds a forensic link between the explosives (3/6) (AD) **11.05** Trigger Point. Sonya manages to trace the chemical explosive HMX used by the bombers to a government lab at Porton Down, while Lana begins to suspect members of her own team are involved (4/6) (AD) **12.10am** Where the Heart Is (AD, SL) **2.20** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
6.00am World of Sport **6.05** Minder (AD, SL) **7.10** The Professionals (AD) **8.15** The Saint **9.20** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.30** Magnum, PI **11.30** The Motorbike Show **12.30pm** The Saint **1.35** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **2.45** Magnum, PI **3.40** The Professionals (AD) **4.50** Minder (AD) **5.55** The Motorbike Show. Visiting Gran Canaria **7.00** BattleBots. Former champion Tombstone tries to protect his reputation **8.00** World Superbike Highlights. Action from round nine from Magny-Cours, France **9.00** World Rally Championship Highlights. Action from the Acropolis Rally Greece, the 10th round of the campaign, held around Lamia **10.00** All Elite Wrestling: Rampage. Action from the world of All Elite Wrestling **11.10 FILM: Mad Max (18, 1979)** A cop in the near future sets out to avenge his family's murder at the hands of a biker gang. George Miller's action thriller starring Mel Gibson, Joanne Samuel and Hugh Keays-Byrne (AD) **1.15am** Auto Mundial **1.40** Motorsport Mundial **2.05** Minder (AD, SL) **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama
6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** All Creatures Great and Small **8.00** Doctors **9.20** Classic Holby City **10.40** Casualty **11.50** The Bill **12.50pm** Classic EastEnders **2.05** Pie in the Sky **3.05** Lovejoy **4.10** All Creatures Great and Small **5.10** The Upper Hand **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! **6.50** Last of the Summer Wine. Seymour vows that the days of Edie carrying a dustbin are over **7.25** Last of the Summer Wine. Seymour volunteers as a driving instructor **8.00** Dalziel & Pascoe. When a jockey dies at the racecourse, the detectives find themselves on the sinister side of the sport after discovering he was poisoned (2/5) (AD) **10.20** New Tricks. A market trader's death is linked to a series of drug rapes (4/10) (AD) **11.35** Silent Witness. A woman is murdered and the forensic evidence leads the team to a cosmetic clinic where the victim had been having various treatments seemingly for free (AD) **1.40am** Lovejoy. A firearms expert agrees to repair an antique gun on Lovejoy's behalf, but unfortunately it is later used in a robbery **2.40** Classic Holby City (SL) **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday
6.10am Sounds of the Sixties **7.15** Warbird Workshop **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **10.00** Secret Nazi Bases **11.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics (AD) **4.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases. Examining the ruins of a once very important German asset **6.00** Great British Railway Journeys **7.00** Bangers & Cash. Selling a 1958 Bedford D122 and a 1969 Vanden Plas Princess (8/10) **8.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan. Joanna begins a 2,000-mile journey across Japan **9.00** Retro Electro Workshop. Shamil hunts down a battered 1940s Marconi Radiogram that has seen better days (AD) **10.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. Following the journey of a vehicle being repaired, restored and re-auctioned (AD) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering. A bizarre block in Taiwan resembling a giant speaker (5/12) (AD) **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

MindGames

Tetonor Moderate No 395

39	60	16	100
75	25	160	19
20	140	26	84
117	22	64	28

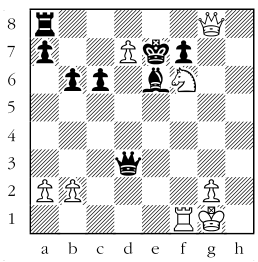
3	4	4	5	6			9	10				16			35

When complete, the strip below the grid can be split into eight pairs of numbers. Adding the numbers in a pair gives one of the 16 numbers in the grid. Multiplying them gives a different number in the grid. For example, a 4 and 6 in the strip could be paired to make 10 (4+6) and 24 (4x6) in the grid. Enter each sum below the corresponding number in the grid. The blanks in the strip must be deduced, bearing in mind the numbers are listed in ascending order.

The next Tetonor puzzle will appear on Thursday

For more puzzles, including Mini Sudoku, extra Codeword, Train Tracks and Futoshiki go to page 10

Winning Move



White to play. This position is from Burdalev-Heppert, Bamberg 2023.

The great German chess teacher, Siegbert Tarrasch had this advice (paraphrased) for players with a habit of messing up winning positions: "When the win is in sight, sit on the hands." Here White is winning and 1 Qxa8, leaving him a rook up, is tempting. Why is this is a mistake and, after sitting on his hands, what should he prefer?

Codeword No 5004

22	10	7	13	7	21	17	23	■	2	12	17	17
10	■	21	■	12	■	7	■	18	■	19	■	3
2	12	7	9	12	■	24	19	19	2	21 T	19 O	11 P
9	■	16	■	14	■	21	■	8	■	21	■	22
21	18	9	10	■	1	18	19	25	23	19	25	10
■	■	1	■	19	■	14	■	17	■	■	■	8
5	7	4	11	22	1	■	2	17	17	13	12	17
22	■	■	■	21	■	12	■	23	■	7	■	■
24	9	5	15	1	18	7	25	■	1	21	9	24
7	■	24	■	9	■	10	■	20	■	18	■	18
13	24	19	10	6	17	23	■	17	10	21	24	14
12	■	1	■	17	■	7	■	1	■	22	■	4
17	7	1	21	■	26	22	19	21	7	13	12	17

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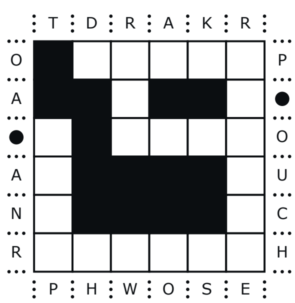
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N ~~O~~ ~~P~~ Q R S ~~T~~ U V W X Y Z

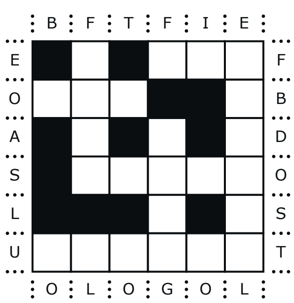
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11 P	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 O	20	21 T	22	23	24	25	26

Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

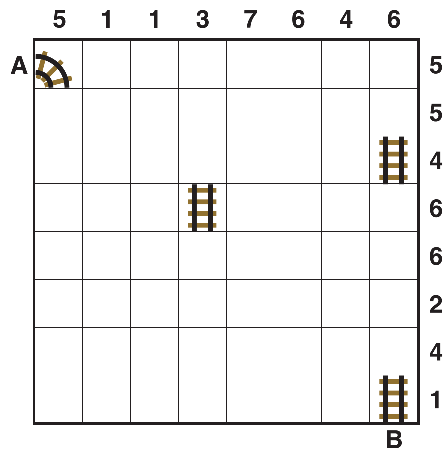
Lexica No 7043 No 7044





Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 2037



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Restaurant worker overlooking one drink (5)

_ _ _ _ _

2 Painter inside has small hound (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Making few stops, say (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

4 Big cat in deli one's spotted (7)

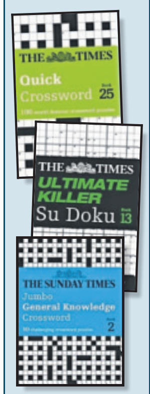
_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Old king playing a harp: I'm surprised! (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	A	E	E	E
E	H	H	H	I	L	N	O
O	P	P	R	R	R	R	S
S	S	S	S	S	T	W	X

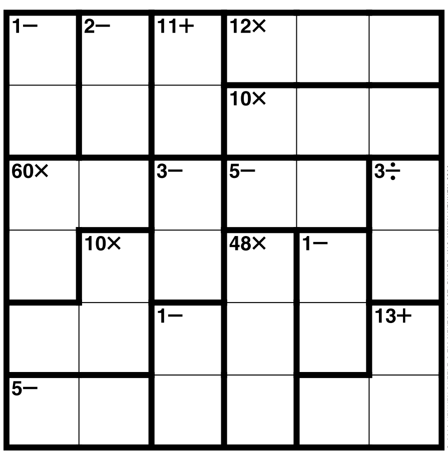
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What are your favourite puzzles in MindGames?
Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

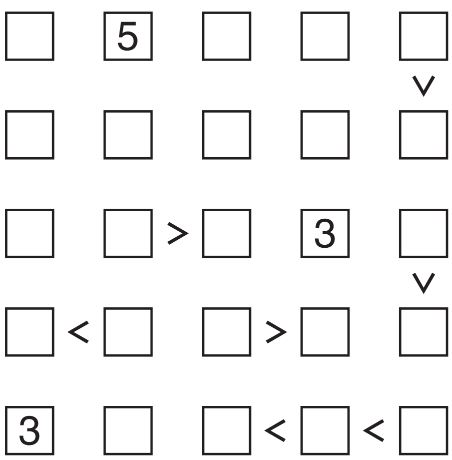
KenKen Medium No 5996



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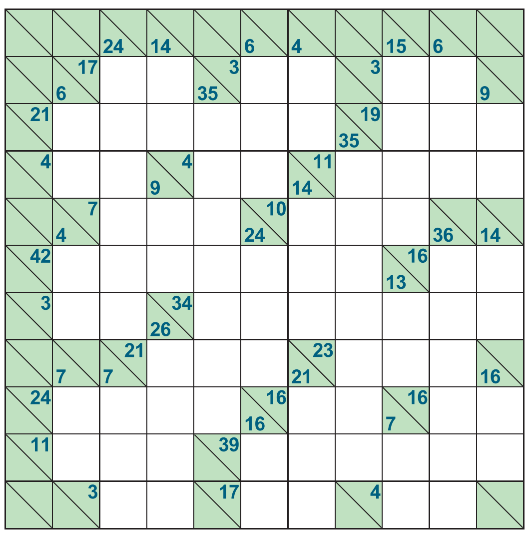
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4562



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3521

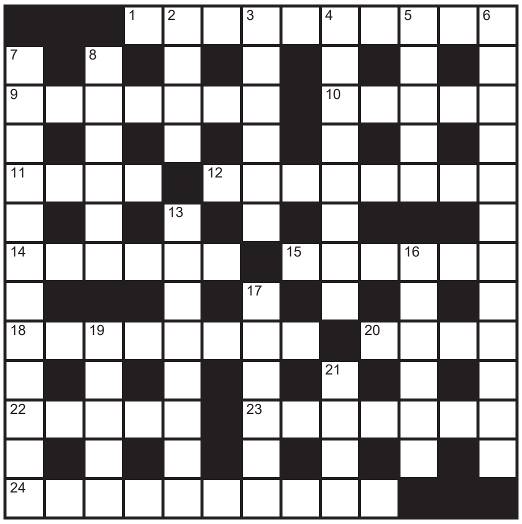


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

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MindGames

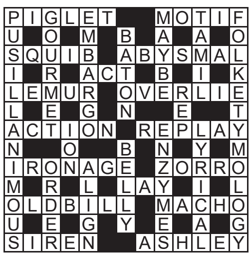
times2 Crossword No 9320



Across
1 Towering edifice (10)
9 Glowing softly (7)
10 Murk (5)
11 Create (4)
12 Consecutive, continuous (8)
14 British mathematician and wartime codebreaker (6)
15 Drainage channel (6)
18 Gun-carrying soldier (8)
20 Attic; hit high (4)
22 Increase the breadth of (5)
23 Brash self-confidence (7)
24 Substance secreted by bees (5,5)

Down
2 Castle's stronghold (4)
3 Fully indulging the appetite or desires of (6)
4 Thoroughgoing (8)
5 Cheap wine (5)
6 Pay (12)
7 Fiery weapon (5-7)
8 Tobacco user (6)
13 Beneath one's skin (8)
16 Ancient besieged citizen (6)
17 Speculate (6)
19 Prone to having short-lived and whimsical interests (5)
21 Of great height (4)

Solution to Crossword 9319



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

I was awarding the best played (or bid) hand at my friend Rie Day's birthday celebrations the day before running the annual Lincoln Cathedral Music Fund Bridge Day.

The bidding had proceeded as far as 3♠ from North, our hostess, when I sidled over.

"How many hearts does partner have?" I asked South, our hero Roberta Hobbs.

"Five," she replied. Yes — if North had held a sixth heart, she would surely have repeated the suit.

"How many spades does she have?"

"Four," came the prompt reply. Yes — if North were 5♠-5♥, she'd surely have bid the high-five first.

"How many diamonds does she have (in the light of East-West bidding to 3♦)?"

"Zero."

Before I'd asked her how many clubs North therefore held, Hobbs had bid 4♣ — and was soon declaring 5♣. It's not often that all other denominations (Notrumps and the other three suits) are mentioned before the trump suit comes to light.

I was then called to another table [where I jostled a partnership into a 98-per-cent slam; at least that's the number I quoted after the disappointed pair had gone down on a 5-0 and 3-0 split — one bad split was fine but not both].

As I returned to the Hobbs-Day table, Hobbs was just chalking up her 11th-straight trick in 5♣ and conceding the last two. Can you spot how she did it?

Declarer had three top tricks

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

Chicago

North: ♠ J1054 ♥ K9732 ♦ - ♣ A1052

West: ♠ K97 ♥ J1085 ♦ AQ10853 ♣ -

East: ♠ Q83 ♥ Q4 ♦ K97 ♣ J7643

South: ♠ A62 ♥ A6 ♦ J642 ♣ KQ98

S(Hobbs)	W	N(Day)	E
1NT	2♦	2♥ (1)	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣ (2)	Pass	5♣	End

(1) Natural, non-forcing.
(2) Working out partner's probable shape.

Contract: 5♣, Opening Lead: ♦ A

outside clubs — the ace-king of hearts and the ace of spades. If she could make all her eight clubs separately, she would be home.

After ruffing the ace of diamonds lead, declarer crossed to the ace of hearts and ruffed a second diamond. She then cashed the king of hearts, crossed to the ace of spades and ruffed a third diamond. She then ruffed a third heart, ruffed a fourth diamond (with the ace of clubs), ruffed a fourth heart and cashed the king-queen of clubs. That was 11 tricks and game made via a classic cross-ruff.

"Good thing trumps were 5-0," said West sagely, "or I could have defeated the contract by leading a trump."

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY 38 → +9 → x 2 → +6 → 90% OF IT → −12 → ½ OF IT → −7 → 75% OF IT → x 3 → ANSWER

MEDIUM 92 → +73 → +⅕ OF IT → x 3 → −46 → 50% OF IT → +54 → +½ OF IT → −46 → ÷2 → ANSWER

HARDER 201 → x 7 → +682 → x 2 → +½ OF IT → +969 → 7/9 OF IT → −356 → 75% OF IT → +981 → ANSWER

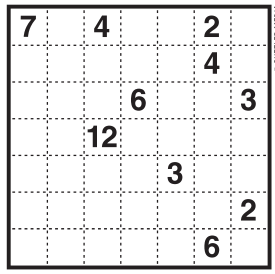
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 8 words, average; 11, good; 14, very good; 18, excellent

Yesterday's answers
hew, how, howe, meow, mew, mews, mow, owe, sew, shew, show, smew, **somehow**, sow, who, whom, whomso, whose, whoso, woe, woo, woosh

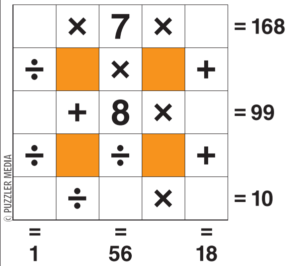
Cell Blocks No 4887



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

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Set Square No 3524

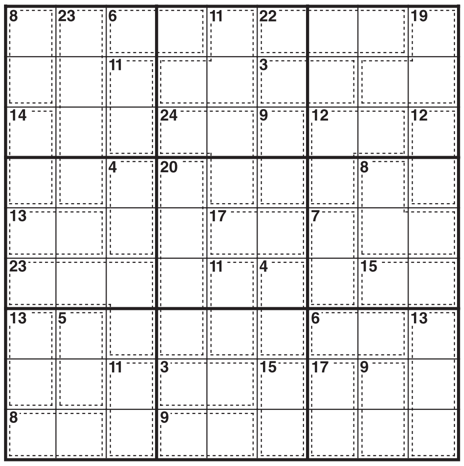


Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

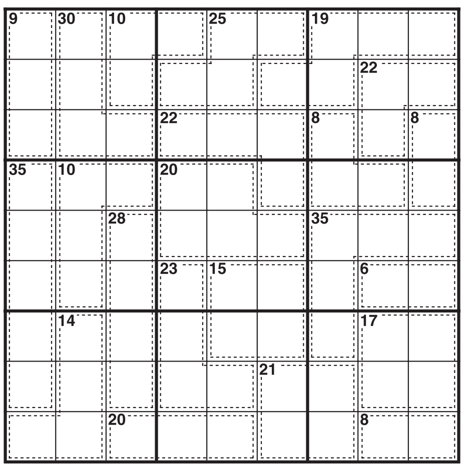
Please note, BODMAS does not apply

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Killer Moderate No 9064



Killer Tough No 9065



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

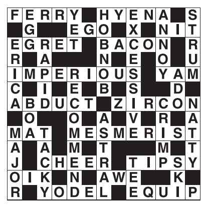
Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

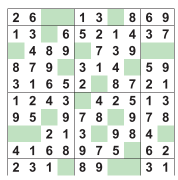
Quick Cryptic 2480



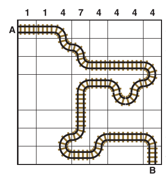
Codeword 5003



Kakuro 3520



Train Tracks 2036



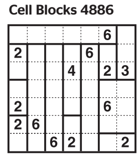
Sudoku 14,313

8	5	1	7	3	4	9	6	2
3	4	9	2	6	5	8	1	7
2	7	6	1	8	9	5	4	3
4	9	3	8	2	7	1	5	6
7	6	8	5	9	1	3	2	4
5	1	2	6	4	3	7	9	8
6	2	7	9	1	8	4	3	5
1	8	4	3	5	6	2	7	9
9	3	5	4	7	2	6	8	1

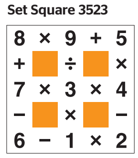
Sudoku 14,314

7	1	8	4	6	9	2	5	3
3	5	9	8	1	2	4	7	6
4	6	2	5	3	7	9	1	8
9	7	5	2	8	3	6	4	1
1	3	6	9	7	4	8	2	5
2	8	4	6	5	1	3	9	7
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6	9	3	7	4	5	1	8	2

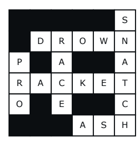
Cell Blocks 4886



Set Square 3523



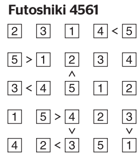
Lexica 7041



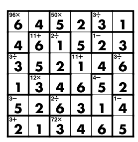
Sudoku 14,315

8	5	9	1	7	6	4	2	3
7	1	4	2	3	8	6	5	9
2	3	6	9	4	5	1	7	8
4	2	5	6	8	3	9	1	7
6	9	8	7	2	1	3	4	5
1	7	3	4	5	9	2	8	6
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3	4	1	8	6	7	5	9	2
9	6	7	5	1	2	8	3	4

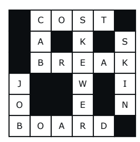
Futoshiki 4561



KenKen 5995



Lexica 7042



Killer 9062

3	9	8	6	5	1	2	7	4
4	7	6	3	9	2	8	1	5
1	5	2	8	7	4	6	3	9
9	8	5	1	2	6	7	4	3
6	3	4	9	8	7	1	5	2
7	2	1	5	4	3	9	8	6
5	1	7	2	3	9	4	6	8
8	4	9	7	6	5	3	2	1
2	6	3	4	1	8	5	9	7

Killer 9063

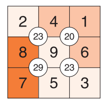
1	4	5	9	8	3	7	6	2
6	8	9	2	1	7	5	3	4
2	3	7	4	5	6	9	8	1
7	5	2	6	9	4	8	1	3
9	1	4	8	3	5	6	2	7
3	6	8	1	7	2	4	9	5
5	9	3	7	2	8	1	4	6
8	2	6	5	4	1	3	7	9
4	7	1	3	6	9	2	5	8

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Rash
2 Soaked
3 Pelmet
4 Eyewear
5 Streetcar

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Water
2 Harass
3 Express
4 Lioness
5 Pharaoh

Suko 3905



Brain Trainer
Easy 72
Medium 223
Harder 4,935

Word watch

Pleon (a) The abdomen of a crustacean (*Chambers*)
Hiaqua (c) A necklace of shells (*OED*)
Accismus (b) An insincere refusal of something desired (*Brewer's*)

Chess — Winning Move

1 Qxa8 is a blunder as after 1 ... Qe3+ White will not be able to escape perpetual check and the game will be drawn. Instead 1 Qe8+! discomfits the black king. After 1 ... Kd6 2 d8Q+ Rxd8 3 Qxd8+ the black queen goes

Quiz

1 Diana, Princess of Wales **2** Church of England **3** *Countdown* **4** Sir Isaac Newton in *Principia Mathematica* **5** Tropic of Capricorn **6** Green **7** Dolly Parton **8** Gorilla Glue **9** Anthony Buckeridge **10** Montreal Cognitive Assessment **11** Admiral Sir George Anson **12** Blancpain **13** Mercedes McCambridge **14** Eddie Irvine **15** Fieldfare

MindGames

For extra puzzles
See page 10

Word watch
David Parfitt

Pleon
a The abdomen of a crustacean
b A fully attended meeting
c An unskilled farm worker

Hiaqua
a A break in continuity
b A shade of purplish blue
c A necklace of shells

Accismus
a An entrance reached by a causeway
b An insincere refusal of something desired
c A word spoken unintentionally

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Mild No 14,316

					3			1
9	2	6			7	8		4
			9	6				
3	4			8		1	2	
1	8			7		3	5	
			8	9				
7	5	8			1	6		2
					2			3

Difficult No 14,317

				5				
	7							8
		5	2	8	6		9	
9		7			3	5		
8								3
		4	6			8		1
	8		5	4	2	1		
6							2	
				6				

Super fiendish No 14,318

	4		9	2	1		5	
	3						7	
4								8
		2				5		
		9	7		4	1		
		8				6		
		3	6		9	7		
	6		1	5	8		2	

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 Who was the first wife of King Charles III?

2 What has been the original church of the Anglican Communion since the 16th-century Protestant Reformation?

3 Which teatime TV show has been hosted by Richard Whiteley, Nick Hewer, Anne Robinson and Colin Murray?

4 Which English physicist first published his three laws of motion in 1687?

5 Which major line of latitude is at roughly 23 degrees south?

6 Created by Adelaide's Balfours bakery in 1922, frog cakes were originally made exclusively in what colour?

ALAMY



7 Which country music legend released the 1966 single *Dumb Blonde*?

8 Sharing its name with a great ape, what is America's biggest-selling glue?

9 Who wrote the Jennings and Rex Milligan series of children's books?

10 Which cognitive test that Donald Trump said he "aced" is known by the acronym MoCA?

11 Which Staffordshire-born commodore completed his four-year voyage around the world in 1744?

12 Founded in 1735, which Swiss watchmaker launched the Fifty Fathoms, the first modern diver's watch, in 1953?

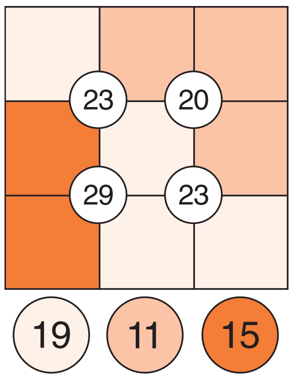
13 Who won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her first film, *All the King's Men* (1949)?

14 Which Northern Irish driver had his first Formula One win at the 1999 Australian Grand Prix?

15 Also called *Turdus pilaris*, which large thrush is this?

Answers on page 15

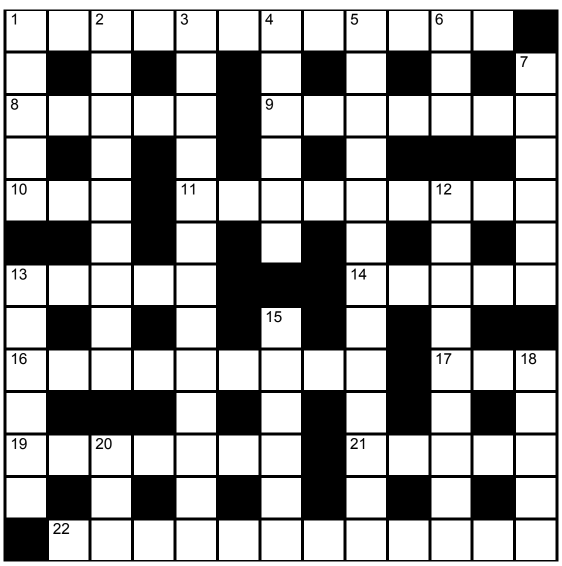
Suko No 3905



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic No 2481 by Izetti



Across
1 Seasonal visitor Rod repeatedly comes to a Californian location (5,7)
8 Malice of archdeacon, old male (5)
9 Fighter in crusade in awful scare, a knight (7)
10 Man offering bit of illumination (3)
11 Northern personality, note, had to bargain (9)
13 Attempts to provide photographs (5)
14 Little female and I can go well together (3,2)
16 Pray in Bury church with leaders of diocesan evangelism (9)
17 Girl quiet in the morning (3)
19 A mister, extraordinary, may be in this group? (7)
21 Playwright's nib's broken around end of line (5)
22 Beginning job that is on the racecourse (8,4)

Down
1 Cut not entirely drastic (5)
2 Butter with any tang? No, unfortunately (5,4)
3 Transmit radio broadcast as manager (13)
4 Appoint some jackass, ignorant (6)
5 Sacrifice for which Alfred was responsible? (5,8)
6 My ascending bird — fabulous (3)
7 An academic leader in the mountains (6)
12 A new hint regarding Italian food (9)
13 Mark of saint, almost magic somehow? (6)
15 Stars, say, turning up with skimpy attire (6)
18 Artist married one student finally (5)
20 Creature not right without head (3)

Yesterday's solution on page 15

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MARKETING & CUSTOMER

03 THE RESURGENCE OF THE SALES PROMOTION
08 A BOARDROOM GUIDE TO BRAND-BUILDING
10 WHAT WOULD CMOs DO WITH A BUDGET BOOST?



The intelligent heart of customer experience

zendesk

MARKETING & CUSTOMER

Distributed in THE TIMES

Contributors

Ellen Hammett
A former senior reporter at *Marketing Week* and Mediatel who covers the media, marketing and advertising, as well as issues relating to gender and corporate social responsibility.

Emily Seares
An award-winning journalist specialising in fashion, retail and business transformation. She contributes to a wide range of publications, including the *Daily Mail*, *Retail Week* and *Drapers*.

Chris Stokel-Walker
An author and journalist specialising in technology and culture, with bylines in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* and *Wired*.

Matthew Valentine
A journalist who specialises in covering the creative industries. He has nearly 30 years' experience of writing for a range of titles.

Raconteur

Reports editor
Ian Deering

Deputy reports editor
James Sutton

Editor
Sarah Vizard

Chief sub-editor
Neil Cole

Sub-editor
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Commercial content editors
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Illustration
Sara Gelfgren
Samuele Motta

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Tim Whitlock

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PROMOTIONS

The sales promotion: trusty tool or double-edged sword?

This reliable old marketing tactic is enjoying a renaissance as cash-strapped consumers continue to shop around, but brands need to approach discounting with extreme care

Matthew Valentine

In times of trouble, marketers tend to reach for one of the most familiar and dependable weapons in their armoury: the sales promotion. This method of stimulating demand and boosting sales volumes, usually by offering price discounts and shouting loudly about them, is back in vogue in the UK as millions of consumers continue to struggle with the cost of living.

Data published in the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising's latest *Bellwether Report* reveals that sales promotions were one of only three marketing tactics to see an increase in expenditure between the first and second quarters of this year.

The institute notes that "the net balance of firms recording budget expansion [in sales promotions] rose to 13.4% – up from 8.8% in Q1. Notably, the uplift in spending in this area was the most pronounced in over two decades of survey data."

There is an obvious reason why this should be the case. Price and value have always been key battlegrounds on which to win consumers over, but these factors seem to have become even more important to shoppers' purchasing decisions as the cost-of-living crisis drags on. For instance, market research released by NielsenIQ in August shows that discount supermarket chains Aldi and Lidl have collectively attracted 800,000 new customers in the UK this year.

Point of Purchasing Advertising International (Popai) is a trade body representing agencies that specialise in in-store promotions. Popai has yet to collate annual figures for promotional activity, but its managing director in the UK and Ireland, Phil Day, says that the anecdotal evidence already indicates a marked year-on-year increase.

Day has instigated an in-depth study of retail strategy during the cost-of-living crisis. His observations so far have led him to infer that supermarkets, in their bid to position themselves as consumer champions, may be leaning on suppliers to fund deep price cuts.

In June, Popai researchers visited several branches of the UK's leading supermarket chains around the country, where they assessed the number and type of sales promotion occurring in each store. They found a sometimes dizzying array of posters, signs and labels promising prices that were dropped, locked in, held down or available exclusively to



holders of loyalty cards. So complex was this mix of messages that Popai had to present it to members in a series of tables to help them make sense of it all.

Retailers, particularly those operating in the health and beauty, grocery and convenience sectors, are mounting an unusually large number of promotions, with supermarkets accounting for about 80% of the growth, Day reports.

"Brands in those sectors are spending more than they were on tactical executions. Although the mechanics of these promotions vary, they are definitely price-oriented. From my perspective, this activity is being driven by retailers, not brand owners," he says.

For brands, the classical sales promotion can prove a difficult pill to swallow. Lowering prices can feel to them like a one-way street, with discounters struggling to restore the previous price once shoppers have grown accustomed to getting more for less. As a result, some differences are being observed in the latest round of promotions, with brands seeking to protect their investments in long-term brand-building – or at least to minimise the damage.

They are becoming increasingly aware of the long-term harm that excessive discounting can cause. Take Gap, for instance: the clothing brand discounted so heavily and so often that shoppers became unwilling to pay the full price for anything. It ended up closing most of its stores in the UK, although it has since re-entered the market via a partnership with Next.

Fortunately, it may not be necessary to slash prices to attract custom. According to Popai's research, consumer behaviour appears to be shifting in favour of a different kind of promotion. Shoppers have come to prefer promotions that offer more product than those offering lower prices. In effect, 20% extra seems to be more attractive than 20% cheaper to someone who's trying to feed their family on a tight budget during a period of high inflation.

Marketing agency Multiply works for a range of clients including big brands such as Heinz and Kenvue (the former consumer healthcare division of Johnson & Johnson). Its head of business, David Roberts, reports that "price reductions are happening; they are part of a promotional matrix. But we're also seeing a desire to talk more about what a brand stands for and to add value on top of the price, rather than come down from it."

As a result, more brands are opting for alternative mechanisms, such as competitions, tailored incentives and limited-edition products, to attract new customers. Travel-based promotions are proving especially appealing to cash-strapped shoppers who haven't been abroad since before the Covid lockdowns.

With such tactics, brands are seeking to boost sales volumes in the short term without undermining their efforts to establish the brand values that justify a long-term premium on their pricing.

It's always been difficult to strike the right balance between price-led promotions and long-term brand-building, but establishing a lasting reputation for providing value for money can be an effective strategy in itself.

Automotive brand Dacia has spent a decade carving out a reputation in the UK for providing good-value vehicles. Graham Robertson, a senior manager at the Romanian car maker, says that its products are always competitively priced, which suits consumers who are counting every penny. Nonetheless, the brand does not cut prices further during sales promotions.

"Our short-term sales activities at Dacia very much play to our brand strengths by highlighting that we do not need to slash our prices considerably for a limited period. Instead, they provide additional incentives to the consumer to enhance an already compelling proposition," Robertson says. "The cars we sell will remain the same price, but the incentive to purchase, such as enhanced servicing packages, will add value for the consumer."

He continues: "We often talk about keeping things simple and being 'the good-thinking choice' when building the brand for the long term. These messages are equally relevant during shorter-term tactical activities, so it's simply a case of dialling them up lightly in those periods."

The sales promotion clearly remains one of the most effective measures that companies can take to boost sales volumes in the short term. But experience during the unexpected and prolonged return of high inflation in the UK has taught them to use it less as a blunt instrument and more as a precision tool if they're to preserve brand value for the long term.

13.4%



The net balance of UK marketers recording a budget increase for activities relating to sales promotions between Q1 and Q2 2023 – one of only three areas to record a net budget increase over that period

Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, 2023

EDITOR'S NOTE

'Most marketers will need to do more with less'

Although some economic indices are showing signs of improvement, the function still faces a range of challenges that are likely to persist into 2024

Marketers, like many in business, have so far found 2023 difficult. Persistently high inflation, ongoing interest rate hikes and the uncertain economic outlook prompted many firms to cut investments in marketing to protect their bottom lines.

This has knocked the industry's confidence, according to the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising (IPA), which analyses the sentiments and spending patterns of senior marketers at big brands in its quarterly *Bellwether Report*. The latest (Q2 2023) report found that a net balance of 12.6% were pessimistic about their industry's financial prospects. Only 2.6% of respondents were positive about their own companies' finances, compared with 7% in the previous quarter.

Some concerns have been allayed now that inflation seems to be easing, but the outlook remains uncertain. Most will need to do more with less, while trying to get the balance of expenditure right and deal with new challenges, such as AI.

"This year hasn't been as bad as many thought it would be," says Dr Grace Kite, business economist and founder of marketing consultancy Magic Numbers. "We haven't seen a recession or media budgets dropping off a cliff. But there is still significant uncertainty in the economy and the marketing industry."

The slowdown in the ad market over the past six months has been notable. The phrase "challenging advertising market" appeared four times on the first two pages of ITV's interim financial report for 2023, for instance. The trend has prompted a slew of businesses that rely on advertising revenue (including Google and Meta) to cut costs, often through extensive layoffs.

Some analysts believe that the worst is over. Tim Nollen, director and senior media tech analyst at Macquarie, suggests that the "underlying tone is positive". He thinks that one of the best indicators of ad spending is growth in business investment. This was 3.4% in the UK in Q2, a similar level to the first quarter, when it was 3.3%.

Nonetheless, growth in ad spending is expected to be weaker in the second half of 2023 than in recent years. In October last year, Insider Intelligence forecast that spending on digital ads this year would grow by 8.8%. By March 2023, it had downgraded its prediction to 4.9%.

The IPA has forecast a 0.6% decline in all ad expenditure this year in its *Bellwether Report*. Meanwhile, the Advertising Association and the World Advertising Research Center have suggested in their latest quarterly *Expenditure Report* that ad spending will increase by 2.6% this year, compared with the 3.8% uplift they had forecast at the start of 2023.

The slow growth in the ad market suggests that many companies are cutting back. This means that marketing chiefs are in many cases being asked to achieve the same results with fewer resources, according to Claire Humphris, CEO of marketing agency Iris London.

"Rising materials costs, wage inflation and increased transportation expenses have been putting a strain on profits," she observes. "As a result, marketing budgets are being slashed to rebalance the financials, while the demand for meeting revenue and sales volume targets remains unchanged."

These budget cuts are set against a backdrop of high inflation in the price of media. Kite estimates that the cost of showing a TV ad 1,000 times rose by nearly 20% between 2019 and 2021, with other channels also becoming more costly (albeit not as quickly).

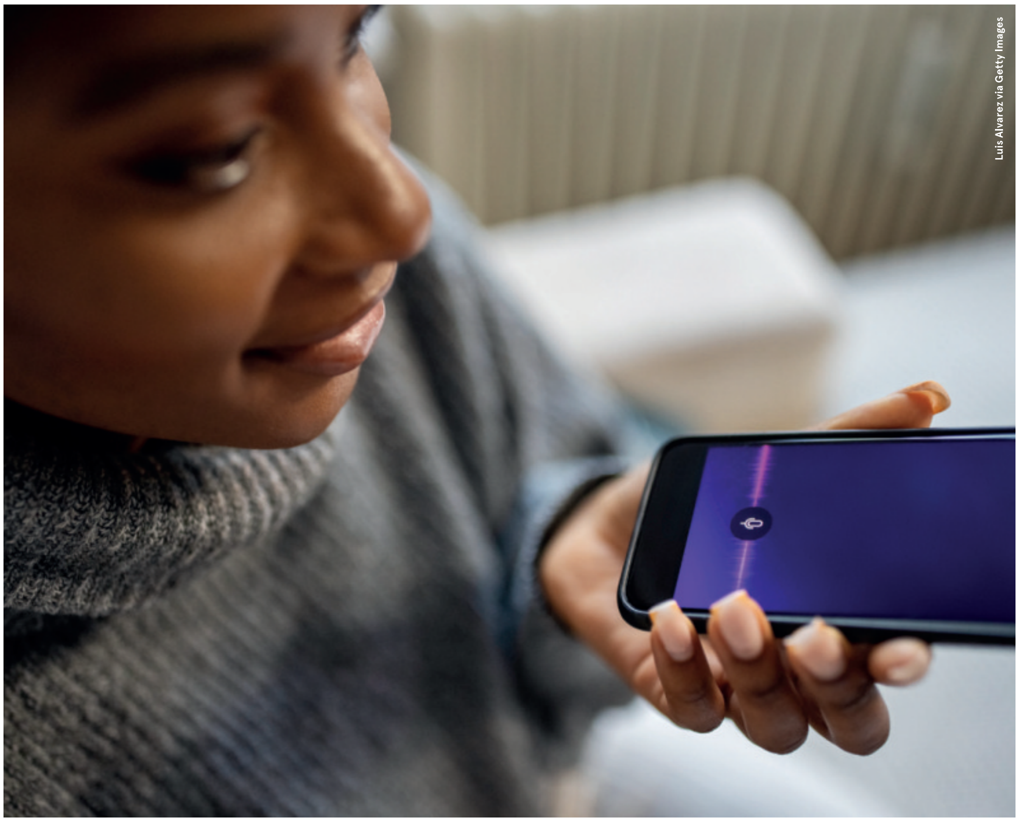
"Over time, as evaluations are done, absorbed and acted on, it means that the media mix will alter away from the high-inflation channels," she predicts. "It's going to become urgent to find replacements for TV in the media mix. This is one of the reasons why long-view discussions about the future of brand-building are vital."

With budget growth clearly not keeping pace, marketers are seeing lower returns on investment while advertising is failing to drive higher sales. CMOs will surely come under increasing pressure to re-evaluate their spending plans as long as trading conditions remain tough. ●



Sarah Vizard
Editor, Raconteur





Luis Alvarez via Getty Images

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

How to improve your company's ranking in AI-powered searches

Firms are grappling with a new question posed by the rise of conversational artificial intelligence tech such as ChatGPT: should they let the chatbots' web crawlers access their sites?

Chris Stokel-Walker

It's a conundrum that is likely to form the basis of MBA case studies in years to come. Imagine you run a company that's successfully selling a product or service. Like most modern enterprises, it relies on online referrals via traditional internet search engines for a significant chunk of its business. This model is then disrupted by a new wave of AI-powered tools that also crawl the web in their quest for answers.

Giving these access to your website could ensure that your firm will be mentioned in the responses that OpenAI's popular ChatGPT chatbot, say, gives to user queries such as: "Who makes the best-value widgets in the UK?" But, in doing so, you must hand over some of your precious intellectual property to feed the large-language model (LLM) that powers this technology. You could prevent its web crawler from accessing your site, but in protecting your property this way you'd risk being overlooked in the chatbot's answers.

So which option is better? Do you let ChatGPT and its ilk run freely over your firm's website or do you shut the crawlers out?

This scenario has become a reality for businesses worldwide in recent months. ChatGPT's introduction in November 2022 represented a seismic shift in information discovery. It's not only ChatGPT, which also powers Microsoft's conversational search engine Bing, that's changing the game. In response to OpenAI's success and partnership with Microsoft, Google is set to integrate generative AI into its search results through its own chatbot, Bard.

While some firms remain reluctant to let AI-powered web crawlers access their intellectual property online, others are realising the benefits of embracing the chatbots. Logikcull falls firmly into the latter camp. A specialist in legal technology, the company keeps a close eye on online referrals to its services. In March, it detected the first referral noting that the business had been named by ChatGPT in answers to certain questions. In doing so, it recognised an opportunity, as many more referrals of that type were to follow.

Today, about 5% of the firm's referrals mention a ChatGPT citation. The chatbot responses that include Logikcull's name are prompted by simple questions such as: "What are good tools to automate searches through many legal documents?"

Andy Wilson is co-founder and CEO of the company, which has just been acquired by US software developer Reveal. He says: "We see this as a channel that, at the rate it's going today, will drive $100,000 in subscription revenue per month."

Logikcull is not the only firm capitalising on getting namechecked by ChatGPT. Ryan Pamplin, the co-founder and CEO of portable blender business BlendJet, also reports seeing an uptick in visits to his company's website since it started being cited in the chatbot's answers to various queries.

These enterprises are among a lucky band to have benefited from a quirk of the system. In effect, ChatGPT's responses are frozen in time, meaning that it obtained their data from a pre-2021 web crawl and is still basing its output on that material. But BlendJet and many others are tweaking their websites in the hope of improving their odds of being included again when the chatbot's knowledge base is next updated.

Your decision on whether to give LLM-powered chatbots access to your website should hinge on what your business sells and how much it stands to benefit from being included in their responses.

That's the view of Lily Ray, an expert in search-engine optimisation (SEO) and senior director at marketing agency Amsive, who is advising clients on what Google calls "the new search-generative experience".

"It depends on how your company earns its revenue," she says. "We have a lot of clients in the publishing sector that make money from their online content. Handing what you've written over to an LLM that answers questions using that material, giving you either weak attribution or none at all, wouldn't really benefit you."

For firms looking to extend their branding online, on the other hand, Ray can see the point in opening the door to the chatbot web crawlers.

In May, SEO consultancy Sistrix published research into the answers that ChatGPT gave to questions covering 10,000 product categories. The results indicate that some companies can benefit from getting mentioned by the chatbot. ChatGPT cited nearly 24,000 brands in response to common queries.

"If you're having a conversation with it and want to know what the best refrigerator is or whatever, then it's definitely great for a brand to be mentioned there," Ray says.

> "Anyone who has focused on brand- and entity-oriented SEO for the past couple of years would be well equipped for AI chatbots

This is why some firms are reconfiguring their websites to become more chatbot-friendly, in a similar way that many have tweaked their online content so that conventional search engines have given their sites a higher ranking.

Optimising a site for a productive ChatGPT crawl is not all that different from traditional SEO work, according to Ray. She believes that "anyone who has focused on brand- and entity-oriented SEO for the past couple of years will be well equipped for AI chatbots".

Serving up content in a way that makes it easy to link to questions, including the judicious use of key words, is likely to benefit a firm in the same way it does for general SEO. That's partly because of how LLMs work in guessing the next most likely word in a sentence based on the context in which it's presented.

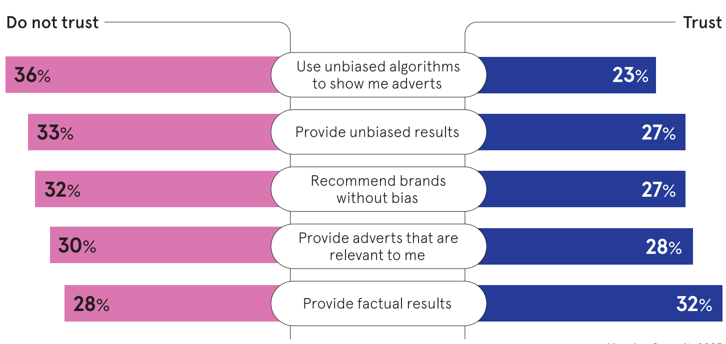
A hint at how best to present information online also comes from the generic term that's applied to chatbots: conversational AI. It's important to keep things concise and conversational, so that LLMs can easily parse your content and re-present that succinctly to users.

If you've chosen to trade some intellectual property for a shot at gaining recognition from AI chatbots, your most important first move should be to monitor your site's traffic to detect their web crawlers and ensure that these aren't locked out.

Having analysed visits to BlendJet's site, Pamplin has found that the OpenAI web crawler presents itself from a specific IP address and in a particular way. He has therefore been able to ensure that it's allowed in. For a business such as his, it seems well worth rolling out the red carpet to this new generation of search tools.

FEWER THAN A THIRD OF ADULTS IN THE US TRUST AI TO RECOMMEND BRANDS

US adults' trust in selected actions of AI-powered search engines



Morning Consult, 2023

Commercial feature

Engaged communities and clear ROI: how brands can hit the marketing sweet spot



Marketers have been tasked with doing more with less, but targeting engaged communities on innovative platforms with creative, user-friendly content across the entire funnel can help businesses drive awareness, leads and sales

Businesses are feeling the pinch. The cost-of-living crisis, supply chain problems and the long hangover from the pandemic have prompted leaders to slash spending. Marketers are balancing caution with innovation amid uncertain times.

This is bad news for marketing leaders, who still need to boost brand awareness, nurture customers down the funnel, and drive ROI – with reduced budgets. Leaders want accountability for marketing spend but attribution remains an enduring, complex challenge.

"Marketers are unsure how or unable to accurately attribute success from marketing across the funnel," says Kris Boger, managing director, Global Business Solutions for TikTok UK and Ireland. "But they need a clear view of the true performance drivers across their marketing mix to enable better investment decisions."

The marketing rule of seven states that consumers need to see a brand's message seven times before taking action, but the number of interactions with a brand before purchase may be higher. Adobe claims that, on average, consumers are exposed to a brand 36 times before purchasing. With these interactions taking place across multiple platforms, online and offline, where do marketers begin?

"Many marketers rely on last-click measurement. But full-funnel cross channel attribution – taking into account both views and clicks – is a more robust and fair approach to attributing success. Many of the brands we work with are moving to this model, and seeing significant improvements to their bottom line as a result," says Boger.

Technology can also help. TikTok provides marketers with a suite of measurement solutions to track the success of their activity. Fundamental to the success of such solutions is the ability to enable safe and reliable data connections. This includes the TikTok Pixel, an industry-standard strip of code that marketers can place on their website to capture events and data they can use to improve campaign performance. An Events API connection can extend to sharing website events with the TikTok platform for further optimisation, and is a future-facing solution for marketers awaiting deprecation of the cookie.

TikTok's Lift tests provide another simple way to help companies measure sales or brand metrics and identify the incremental brand impact of campaigns. With extensive third-party measurement partners, TikTok can offer a wide range of solutions for advertisers, helping advertisers to better attribution and investment decisions via e-commerce measurement platforms like Fospha.

But measurement tools can't drive brand awareness, nurture leads or drive sales. To do this, marketers must decide which channels are likely to be most effective to reach campaign goals.

While big brands have slashed their marketing budgets – research by Treasure Data finds that 65% of senior marketers have already had their budget cut – others still focus their spend on social media. The average social media user spends 2.5 hours a day across their channels, according to DataReportal, which is the equivalent of a movie on social media sites like TikTok each day. Couple this with the rich data access that helps justify marketing spend and it becomes clear why TikTok is a powerful tool in the marketing mix for many global businesses.

"You don't check TikTok – you come to TikTok to be entertained and to watch videos in full-screen with the sound on," says Boger. "This has led to a huge amount of product discovery where people have been shown products from businesses they weren't familiar with. This is driving sales on and off the platform; the hashtag #TikTokmademebuyit has 68 billion views."

Those who have been successful in building audiences on TikTok understand how their customers behave and consume content. Micro-communities are groups of highly engaged users who watch and discuss content around their passions – #BookTok, #RecipeTok and #SkinCareTok are three such thriving communities.

> Marketers are unsure how or unable to accurately attribute success from marketing across the funnel

"We help brands to create content organically and encourage them to look at what's happening in the micro-communities," says Boger. "A great example is #TravelTok, where users post travel tips and reviews on places to go. Brands like TUI and Booking.com have done brilliantly in creating similar types of content and built passionate followings as a result."

Brands can also look to the recent Unilever partnership for #CleanTok™, where TikTok and Unilever have partnered to co-create and curate content for the once mundane category of cleaning – now one of the most loved and entertaining genres on TikTok.

For brands looking to move beyond organic content, comprehensive media plans and ad solutions offer another avenue to reach millions of new consumers. However, Boger says it's important that the user and advertising experience is seamless: "When we work with advertisers we want to create content that is entertaining and looks natural and authentic on TikTok. Some brands will film their ads on a smartphone, others will partner with a creator who can help them to reach and appeal to a micro-community."

The approach is working. Boots is one of a host of global brands that has partnered with TikTok to drive conversions of its deals. Using a tailored account nurture strategy, the retail brand targeted ad campaigns at each step of the customer journey and, when consumers reached the bottom of the funnel, used TikTok's e-commerce solution Video Shopping Ads helped to drive sales. Boots saw a 133% increase in return on advertising spend, a 48% decrease in cost per complete payment and a 20% increase in value per complete payment.

As well as helping brands boost sales, TikTok is focusing on creating the world's safest platform for the community and, in turn, for brands. "The safety of the community is number one," says Boger. "We've done a huge amount of work to build trust and keep users and brands safe on TikTok. For example, we've prioritised the safety of our younger users, building several age-appropriate safety elements into the platform, while tools like Family Pairing help parents set controls on their teen's TikTok accounts".

At a time of great uncertainty for businesses, trusted and innovative platforms with engaged communities and next-generation advertising tools could be the key to driving real ROI from marketing investments.

Explore solutions and case studies at tiktok.com/business

TikTok for Business

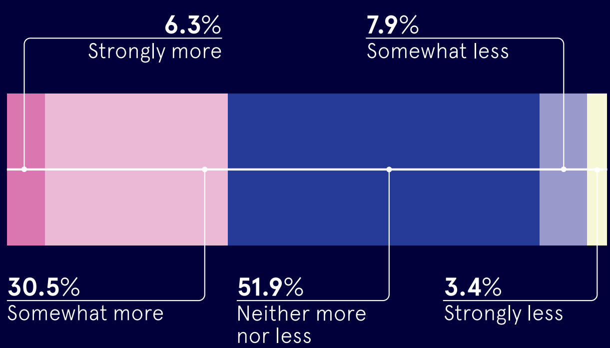
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SHOULD BRANDS TAKE A STAND?

While some companies have built a positive reputation for their enlightened stance on social or political issues, others – Budweiser and Unilever, for instance – have found themselves in hot water with consumers for their views and actions relating to certain contentious matters. This new research from Raconteur digs into what consumers really think about outspoken brands, how 'wokeness' affects their purchasing decisions and which topics a business would be better off staying quiet about

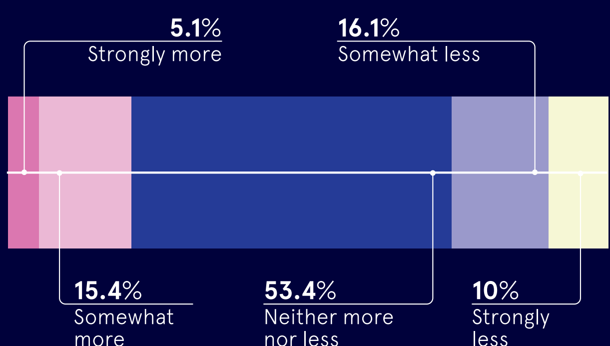
MORE THAN A THIRD OF CONSUMERS WOULD BE MORE INTERESTED IN BUYING FROM A BRAND EXPRESSING A CLEAR OPINION ON A SOCIAL OR POLITICAL ISSUE

Share of consumers giving the following responses when asked how likely they were to buy from a firm taking a strong stance on a contentious matter



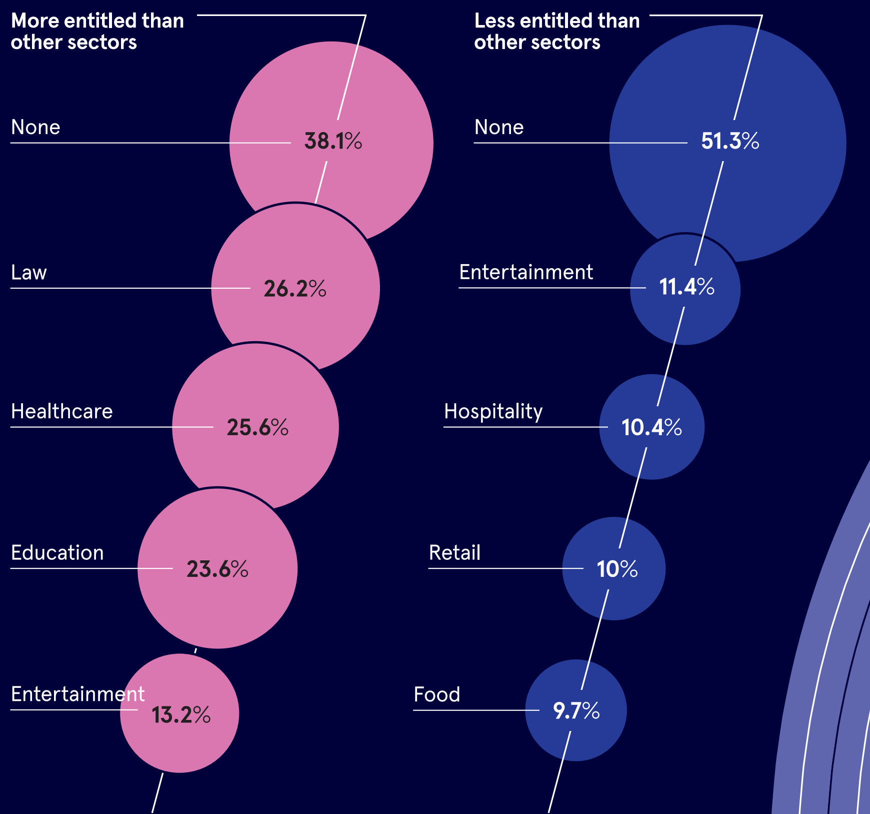
MOST CONSUMERS ARE GENERALLY APATHETIC TOWARDS BRAND 'WOKENESS'

Share of consumers giving the following responses when asked how likely they were to buy from a company that others have described as 'woke'



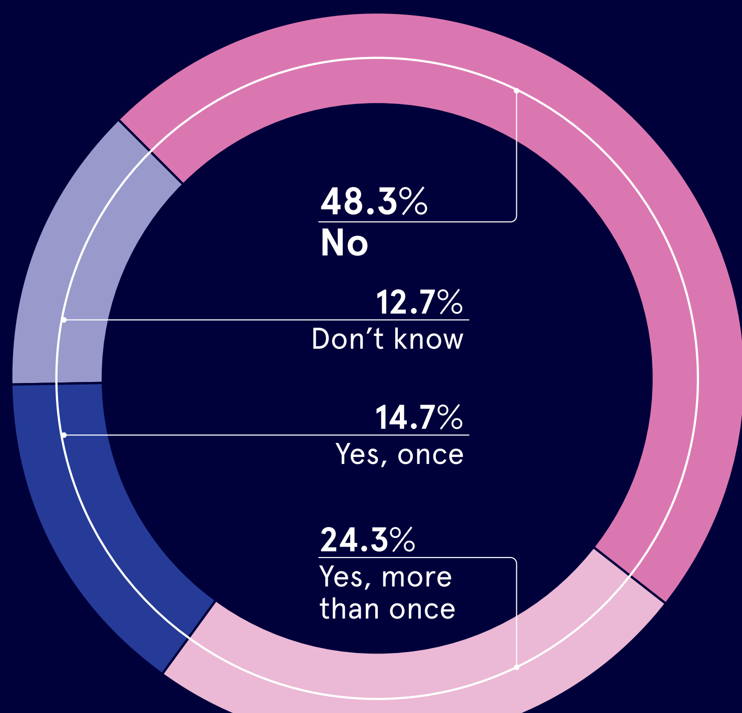
FOR MANY CONSUMERS, ALL BRANDS ARE EQUALLY ENTITLED TO EXPRESS AN OPINION ABOUT SOCIAL OR POLITICAL ISSUES

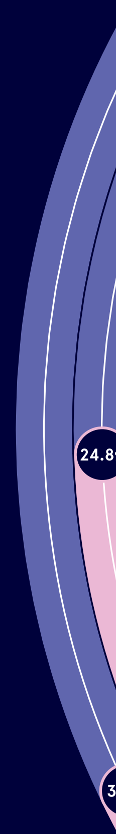
Share of consumers giving the following responses when asked whether brands in certain sectors were more or less entitled than those in others to speak out on contentious matters



NEARLY HALF OF CONSUMERS HAVE NEVER STOPPED BUYING FROM A BRAND BECAUSE OF A SOCIAL OR POLITICAL STANCE

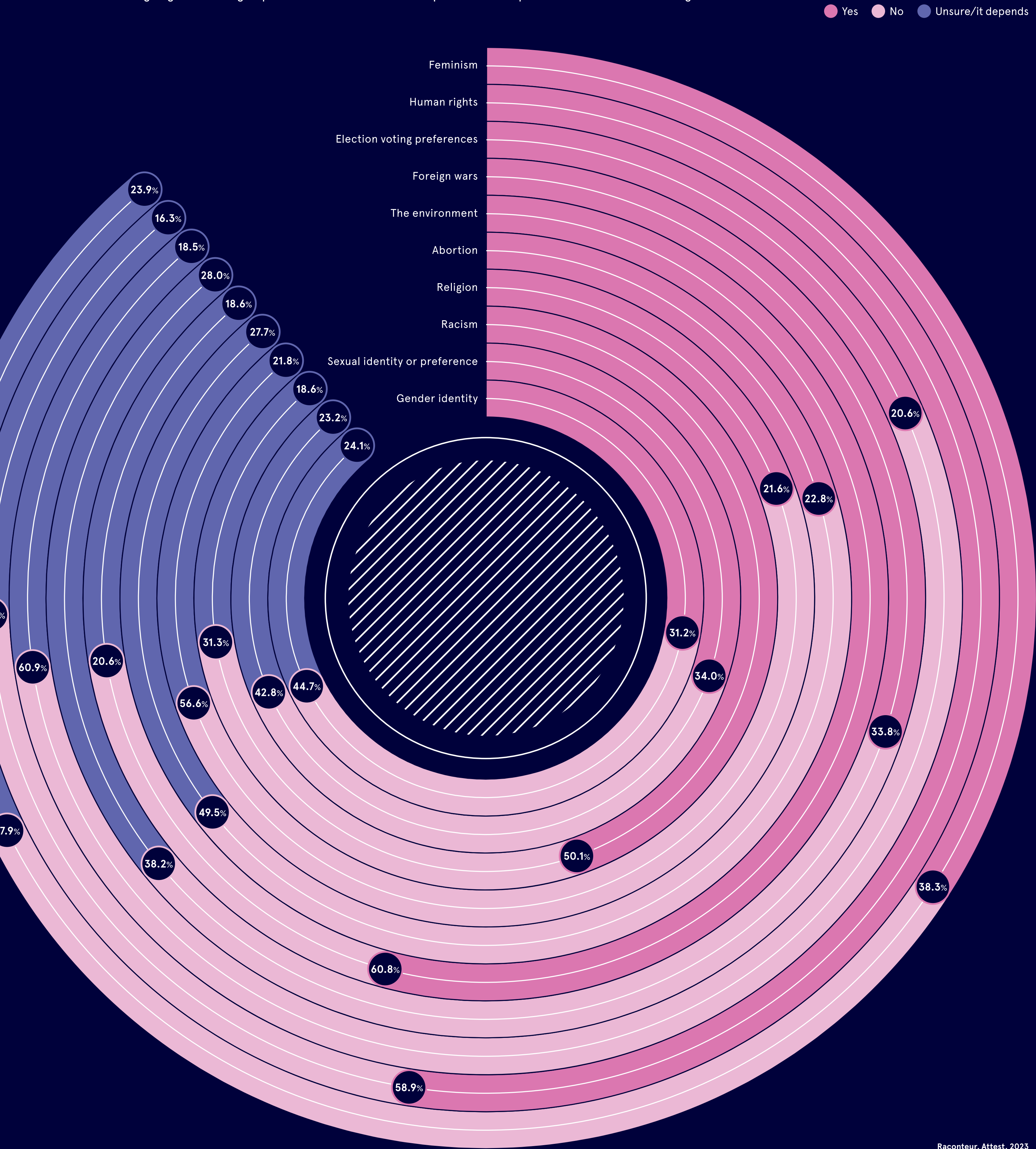
Share of consumers giving the following responses when asked whether they had ever stopped buying from a firm because of its stance on a contentious matter





WHICH TOPICS ARE OFF-LIMITS FOR BRANDS?

Share of consumers giving the following responses when asked whether companies should express their views on the following contentious issues



Raconteur, Attest, 2023

EXPECTATION MANAGEMENT

What the C-suite should expect from a brand-building programme

Building a brand is no short-term undertaking, yet many CMOs are under pressure in the boardroom to demonstrate quick returns on this investment. It's time to rectify some fundamental misapprehensions



Emily Seares

At the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity in June, Mastercard's chief marketing and communications officer, Raja Rajamannar, spoke on stage alongside CFO Sachin Mehra about the lack of understanding between the two functions at the top level of many companies.

Citing a Forrester Research survey reporting that only 37% of marketing chiefs believe it's vital to build a good relationship with the CFO, Mehra stressed the need for better communication and cooperation. Rajamannar, meanwhile, acknowledged that too many CMOs still struggle to "connect the dots" between long-term marketing initiatives and business outcomes.

Such observations align with the results of a recent survey by B2B marketing agency Transmission. Of the finance chiefs it polled, 72% said that their CMOs found it hard to measure the effectiveness of brand programmes, while 81% said that such measurements could be done and dusted within 12 months.

Part of the problem, says Tom Fowler, planning director at brand consultancy the Propaganda Agency, is an overreliance on so-called vanity metrics – for instance, those concerning engagement with a brand on social media – that aren't clearly linked to key commercial priorities such as boosting market share and revenue. This leads to inflated growth indicators in the short term and an inevitable plateau in performance at about the 18-month mark.

"Digital performance tactics have given us loads of ways to measure the effectiveness of advertising. I think it's 170 ways at the last count," Fowler says, noting that nearly all of these are vanity metrics – from open rates to dwell times – that foster unrealistic expectations.

As the economic uncertainty continues, many marketing chiefs are under pressure to build a short-term business case for what is an inherently long game. It's therefore up to them to ensure that their C-suite colleagues have a more realistic understanding of their brand-building efforts, argues Kristof Neirynck, global CMO at beauty firm Avon and the managing director of its business in western Europe.

"A lot of businesses are under profit pressure, which places a greater onus on their CMOs to prove immediate returns. This can prompt some to opt for tactical conversions alone, which presents a danger in the long term," he says. "It's the CMO's task to manage the expectations of the CFO (and the CEO) about the return on marketing investment. Success is openly delivering the ROI that you have committed to and driving brand growth in a profitable way."

So what should business leaders realistically expect to see from a brand-building programme? Here is a theoretical timeline of how an effective one might work. Crucially, it runs for three-plus years.

Six months

Create and align

The first six months need to be a time of strategic creation, according to Yael Alaton, a partner at the Pearlfisher London agency in charge of vision and strategy. This period of initial analysis and R&D work should produce a well-defined "roadmap" for the brand, she says.

Fowler adds that it's important to divide expenditure between brand and performance, but this means that you must hold your nerve beyond 18 months, as brand-building isn't a short-term undertaking.

"On some tweaks you might see an immediate short-term impact, but you really need to think about the long term," he stresses. "Set in place tracking measurements, so you can show your C-suite colleagues what the impact has been and actually understand this yourself."

> "Success is openly delivering the ROI that you have committed to and driving brand growth in a profitable way

Fowler continues: "Ultimately, this is about being clear about what you're going to do, but also what you're not going to do. This needs to be at the heart of your strategy over the first six months."

12 months

Express and connect

Brand-tracking measurements can often take months to show movement, but there are short-term indicators, such as share of search, consumer sentiment and site traffic, where you'd want to see evidence of an uplift between six and 12 months. So says Michael Lee, global chief strategy officer at creative agency the VCCP Partnership.

He believes it's important at the one-year mark to avoid falling into the trap of seeing brand-building as a trade-off for investing more in tactical performance.

"We often talk about 'brand response' – creating tactical communications that still do a brand-building job. While working with easyJet, for instance, we might run a tactical sales promotion campaign, but the look and feel of those comms still exist in the aspirational brand world," Lee explains. "The factors that make brand-building activity distinctive are the same as those that improve the performance of more short-term activity."

18 months

Establish and measure

This phase, Alaton says, is about developing the full brand experience across platforms and touchpoints, while learning from consumers as well as in-market results.

At 18 months, the brand's unique position, complete brand experience and key brand equities should be established, and the evaluation methods put in place for long-term assessment and planning.

Kirsty Hunter, CMO at Innocent Drinks, notes that "you might start seeing a small community of customers forming around your brand at this stage through more active

engagement on social media, user-generated content and discussions about your products".

But she adds that marketing chiefs must be able to demonstrate to their C-suite colleagues the longer-term value of brand-building activity to the business.

"While the rise of AI and other advanced technologies has enabled marketers to gain a greater understanding of their programmes, it has also brought many challenges," Hunter says. "Many people assume that the technology has made marketing cheaper, which is not the case. Marketing isn't just an algorithm; the human factor behind it must not be underestimated."

Her company saw this principle in practice when it ran an Instagram post that put advertisements created by its social media team up against AI-generated ads. Hunter reports that, although the automated content "performed suitably, people connected much more to what the team created".

Two years

Expand and diversify

By year two, your brand identity and values should be firmly established in the minds of your target audience, according to Hunter. It's also a good time to expand your brand further to new territories and demographics, or explore partnerships and collaborations with other brands, NGOs and influencers in your core market.

Alaton adds that, two years in, the brand should also be capitalising on its unique position and powerful equities to look at expanding and diversifying its role in people's lives.

Neirynck believes that consistency is key at this stage to build longer-term returns. "Take 'Ding-dong, Avon calling', for example. This tagline was built over many years. It gradually became synonymous with the brand and is now hard-wired with consumers," he says.

Three years

Nurture and grow

The strategic groundwork of the first three years should produce a brand that's fit for the future and set for growth, according to Alaton. At this point, the brand should be protecting its equity while nurturing its unique relationship with customers, with a focus on unlocking further opportunities.

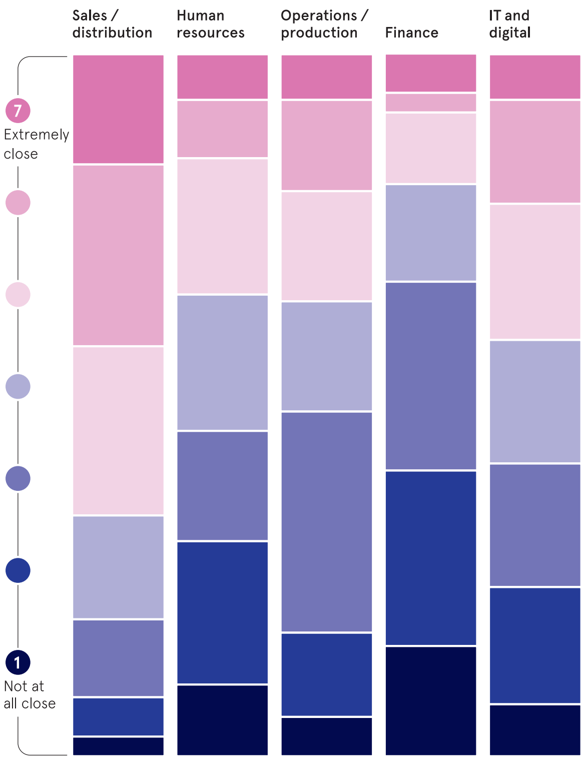
Hunter says that, by the end of year three, "you should have established a familiar brand – easily recognisable and associated with your products. Having achieved brand maturation, it's now time to build on the strong foundations you have set for the long term."

Getting to this point requires clear and honest communication from the outset. A strong strategic framework, tangible measurement of brand-building effectiveness and clear communication in the boardroom about what to expect at every stage are prerequisites for success.

As Alaton says: "An effective brand-building programme is one that is integrated into long-term business strategy. The C-suite has to approach this as an investment in the future."

HOW DEEPLY INVOLVED DO NON-MARKETING FUNCTIONS GET IN BUILDING A BRAND?

Share of marketing chiefs giving the following ratings of the level of cooperation between their teams and other departments during brand-building programmes



London Business School, 2023

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FUNDING

Tight club – what to do with a little more cash?

With their budgets still getting squeezed, many marketing teams have been forced to lower their sights. Here's what three leading CMOs would prioritise if the purse strings were loosened a fraction

Ellen Hammett

In times of crisis, marketing is usually among the first activities to feel the pinch. Indeed, as tough economic conditions persist, marketing budgets as a share of corporate revenue have been shrinking to the extent that 71% of CMOs polled by Gartner in May said they wouldn't have enough funds to fully execute their plans this year.

What would they be trying to do if they weren't limited this way? If they had just 10% more spending power – almost enough to return their budgets to 2019 levels – how would they wield it? Raconteur asked three marketing chiefs what moves they would make if given the extra money.



'Instead of counting on the business changing, we've decided to take control of what we can'

Patricia Corsi

Chief marketing, digital and information officer, Bayer Consumer Health

Every year, Patricia Corsi places about a third of her firm's marketing budget into a separate pot that she calls the "pitch fund". She then invites members of her senior team (13 people report directly to her) to present business cases for ideas they think should be prioritised.

This fund is then typically spent on the development of minimum viable products – versions of new goods with just enough features to be usable by early-adopting customers, who will then provide feedback to inform refinements.

Given 10% more money for the year, "I would apply the same principle", says Corsi, whose 300-strong marketing team covers a portfolio of global brands including Berocca, Canesten and Claritin. In other words, she'd put a third of that extra cash into the pitch fund.

"In any given year, there will be areas that you'll need to invest in much more. But, of course, we don't get much more budget every year," she says. "So, instead of counting on the business changing, we've decided to take control of what we can."

Corsi would devote a chunk of her hypothetical 10% to accelerating projects that are going well and reactivating some longer-term work that was deprioritised because of the need to focus on more urgent issues.

"AI is one of the weapons in our arsenal in which we'd invest more too," she says. "There are some areas where there isn't much clarity on whether AI would add value to the business or not, so I would experiment in those."

Crucially, as marketers worldwide come under mounting pressure to justify all investments and prove their effectiveness, a modest budgetary boost might offer a chance to experiment in relative freedom.

"A principle of experimentation is that half of what you try might not be successful," stresses Corsi, who adds that, if such work ends up delivering growth, "you'll have an upside that wasn't in the books".

> "
> **There are some areas where there isn't much clarity on whether AI would add value to the business or not, so I would experiment in those**

'I'd want to make our own special, distinctive campaign'

Samuel Day

Chief marketing officer, Confused.com

It must be the entrepreneur in Samuel Day who'd be pushing for far more than a mere 10% extra. Confused.com's CMO says that he would look to double his team's budget "immediately", thereby enabling the brand to do something it wouldn't normally have the scope to try.

"I'd want to make our own special, distinctive campaign to run for a defined period," says Day, who'd find a media or brand partner to co-fund a project that would make "more impact than just iterative gains. Rather than distributing that money across everything you are doing and making it all slightly better, make it make a *real* difference."

He would get things started by bringing everyone from his own team and its external partners together in the same room to put their ideas on the table and work out "the biggest bang for our buck we can get". This is often when the "gems" are discovered, he says. But it can also lead to some quite parochial ideas, with various parties trying to attract as much money as they can their way.

Day would particularly like to extend the brand's reach to younger consumers. While Confused.com's sponsorship of popular TV soap *Emmerdale* has "nailed" the middle-aged-plus demographic, fragmented younger audiences remain more elusive, so he would be looking at partnering with TikTok or YouTube, or mounting a big PR campaign. All the while, he would be paying close attention to his econometrics and attribution models.

"The return element of any marketing investment is always a risk," he says. "Because you must deal with this balance of risk, you have never got enough budget for your ambitions."

But Day adds that more money doesn't necessarily mean better marketing.

Marketers need to be smart with their investment decisions. If, for instance, a campaign is already "optimised", going beyond it with a bigger budget might not be the best move.

"You've got to get it right, knowing that every pound spent has a significant impact until it doesn't," Day stresses. "Any business should maximise that optimised ROI before it goes too far. You have to work hard for that budget."

> "
> **Rather than distributing that money across everything you are doing and making it all slightly better, make it make a *real* difference**





‘My focus is always to increase investment in working media to deliver the greatest commercial results’

Jane Stiller

Chief marketing officer, ITV

It’s already been a particularly busy year for Jane Stiller. She has overseen the commercial broadcaster’s biggest marketing campaign to date, with the arrival of the ITVX streaming service, and also led major content campaigns based on shows including *Love Island* and *A Spy Among Friends*.

“We have actually increased our marketing expenditure to exceed pre-crisis levels, recognising the need to cut through a cluttered market and demand viewers’ attention,” reports Stiller, who has been investing confidently to “drive awareness and consideration”.

Of course, she would always welcome an additional 10%. That would enable Stiller to ramp up her investment in ensuring that ITV remains “top of mind” among its target audience.

“Every marketer would like a larger budget if they knew they could drive profitable growth with that extra money,” she observes. “There’s huge competition in the TV content market, so an incremental increase would help us to achieve our goals of bringing in more viewers more often to deliver our commercial objectives.”

Stiller typically prioritises “working media” – what the audience sees. She would put more money behind her firm’s Q4 output, which includes a revival of *Big Brother* on ITV for the first time, and increase investment in digital acquisition channels.

“My focus is always to increase investment in working media to deliver the greatest commercial results,” she says. “I’d be looking to mass-reaching media channels, such as TV and out-of-home advertising, as well as targeted digital channels that perform well for acquisition and retention.”

But a bigger budget is not the “be-all and end-all” if fundamental elements of a campaign don’t match up, stresses Stiller, who explains: “Nothing will perform as well if the creative execution isn’t fantastic or the targeting isn’t good.”

With this in mind, she might use any remaining money to invest in the best creative talent she can find and sufficient data infrastructure to ensure that ITV can personalise its communications on a large scale.

> “A bigger budget is not the be-all and end-all. Nothing will perform as well if the creative execution isn’t fantastic or the targeting isn’t good

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